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Each time a hunter buys a hunting license, the money he spends goes toward many facets of wildlife management. Since 1920, close to a million and a half aces of State Game Lands have been acquired with these funds. Each year nearly \$7,000,000 is spent to improve wildlife habitat. Habitat improvements enhance living conditions for non-game birds and mammals as well as those species which are hunted. Pennsylvania hunters willingly share these lands with the non-hunting public, and with few exceptions, State Game Lands are open for general use year round. Surveys indicate that hunting accounts for only thirty-five percent of game land usage. The remaining sixtyfive percent is used by the general public for nonhunting purposes.

"Working Together for Wildlife" is a Game Commission program providing everyone an opportunity to help support wildlife management in the areas for endangered and non-game animals. Monies derived from the "Working Together for Wildlife" Program are being used in Pennsylvania to re-introduce the osprey, river otter, bald eagle, peregrine falcon and provide habitat for other birds and mammals indigenous to the Commonwealth. Construction placement of blue bird houses on State Game Lands provides needed homes for this beautiful songbird. Islands in the Susquehanna River have been set aside as propagations areas for nongame shore birds. Numerous other projects are planned on State Game Lands and other public

## SPORTSMEN'S RECREATION MAP



No. 208
TIOGA COUNTY

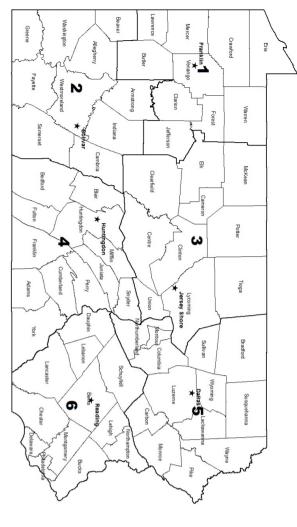
State Game Lands (SGL) 208 contains approximately 8,858.32 acres in northwestern Tioga County, within Gaines and Clymer Townships, about 10 air miles west of Wellsboro and surrounds the borough of Gaines.

Access is provided by S.R. 349. There are 5 parking areas and several gated roads that provide foot access.

Topography varies from gentle slopes to steep side hills. The highest elevation of about 2,320 feet is found on a ridge top in Compartment 3. The lowest elevation of 1,223 feet is found near the confluence of Pine Creek and Long Run. SGL 208 is predominantly forested (47% oak, 35% northern hardwood, 5% conifer) Forest age distribution is heavily weighted toward the 81–125 year age class due to limited access, stream crossings and a combination of steepness and soil conditions. There are isolated vernal pool complexes and hawthorn, scrub-shrub wetlands identified by Tioga Natural Heritage Inventory as unique wetland habitats.

A variety of game species can be found. The more common include white-tailed deer, black bear and gray squirrel. Trappers have opportunity for red and gray foxes, coyote, raccoon, opossum, skunk, beaver, muskrat, mink and bobcat. Game Lands 208 is also part of the Northern Allegheny Plateau Important Mammal Area (IMA). Common game birds are wild turkey and ruffed grouse. Forests on SGL 208 also support scarlet tanager, cerulean warbler, long-eared owl, great-horned owl, barred owl, and northern goshawk. Other activities on SGL 208 include cross-country skiing, hiking, and bike riding. Horseback riding and snowmobile access are not available on this game lands. Fishing opportunities are available in and around SGL 208, especially the Pine Creek, with creek-side access available from Rt. 6 on the eastern edge of Gaines village.

Managing the contiguous nature of this forested area will be a priority for SGL 208. Doing so will provide opportunity to manage habitat for black bear and fisher, and a variety of neotropical migrants listed in the Wildlife Action Plan. Nonetheless, the isolated pockets of early successional habitat will be maintained for wildlife such as woodcock that depend on early seral areas.



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