



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



STATE GAME LANDS No. 218 ERIE COUNTY State Game Land 218 consists of a single tract totaling 1351.2 acres located in the Northwestern Glaciated Plateau Section of the Appalachian Plateaus Province within the PGC's Northwest Region, Wildlife Management Unit 1B and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Bird Conservation Region 13. This tract is part of the French Creek/Allegheny River watershed. It is situated in Greene Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania 8.5 miles northwest of Wattsburg and about 11.5 road miles southeast of Erie.

Good access to all portions of the game land is provided by a series of State and Township roads. There is a paved administrative road extending from Barton Road to the old visitor center site that provides seasonal vehicle access. It terminates at the old visitor center parking area, which continues to provide ample parking for game land users accessing that portion of the game land. There are several administrative roads, which also serve as horse/bike designated routes, provide easy walking access to the interior of the game land and access to the impoundments. The primary one extending from the end of Dyer Road at the southern end of the game land north to the old visitor center paved road, and eventually to its origin at Barton Road. There are 11 parking areas well distributed around the game land.

The original intent of the acquisition was to develop a waterfowl management area. Consequently, a series of impoundments were developed that flooded up to approximately 570 acres. Structural integrity issues currently plague the dam of the main impoundment, which accounts for approximately 400 of the 570 potentially flooded acres, and therefore limits waterfowl management at the present time.

The primary hunting activity at SGL 218 centers around small game, especially stocked ring-necked pheasants, although rabbits, American woodcock, and mourning doves are also popular. There are also good opportunities for beaver, muskrat, mink and raccoon trapping. In years past, waterfowl hunting, especially goose hunting, was very popular on SGL 218. Opportunities still exist for these species, but the shift from

intensive agriculture toward grassland and small game habitat now limits the game land's attractiveness for geese. The impoundments still provide good opportunities for ducks, however.

The priority game species on SGL 218 include eastern cottontail rabbits, American woodcock, stocked ring-necked pheasants and waterfowl. As with most game lands, white-tailed deer and eastern wild turkeys are always a consideration. Habitat management activities will focus on enhancing and maintaining early successional habitat. Invasive plant species, are problematic on SGL 218.

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