

## PERMANIA GAME COMMING

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. 224
LUZERNE COUNTY

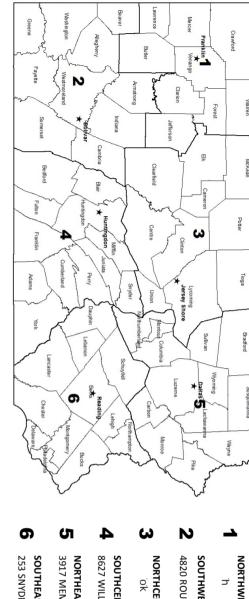
State Game Lands 224 is located in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's (PGC) Northeast Region. It is in central Luzerne County. It lies within Union, Hunlock, and Plymouth Townships. The Game Lands lie on three separated tracts. The larger tract borde route 11, 2.5 miles north of the borough of Shickshinny and 3.5 miles south of West Nanticoke. It is approximately 11 air miles west of downtown Wilkes-Barre. The smaller tract is transected by Jesse Road (township road). It is 6 air miles west of Wilkes-Barre. The third lies approximately 1.5 air miles southeast of the larger tract.

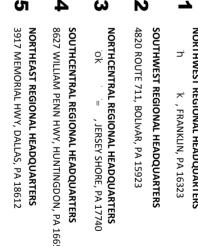
Topography on SGL 224 varies from gently sloping shoulders to steep side hills. Elevation ranges from 1,540 feet on the ridge top to 600 feet as it descends to route 11 along the Susquehanna River Valley. SGL 224 is predominately forested. Dry oak- heath and dry oak-mixed hardwood forest types represent 571.3 acres (89% of total area). Red, chestnut, white, scarlet, and black oak dominate, with a lesser component of red maple, yellow-poplar, black birch, and sassafras. The majority of SGL 224's forestland is 70-90 years old. Much of the larger parcel is 90 years old. Stands 3, the reverting field, is in the 20 – 40 year age class. Stand 8 is a younger cohort (40 years), resulting from a past timber harvest. The only early successional habitat is found within the pole line right of ways. The entirety of the smaller parcel is 75 years old.

There are two designated SGL parking areas that facilitate access to the smaller parcel. They are located along Jesse Road. There are no maintained parking areas on the larger tract, but parking is available in a state owned rest stop adjacent to the boundary. The only infrastructure that exists on this parcel is a gated 4x4 trail that originates off of State Route 11 just north of the rest area, and connects to the power line. This power line provides adequate foot access to the entire parcel.

SGL 224 is split between two wildlife management units (WMU). The larger parcel lies in WMU 4E. The smaller parcel is in WMU 3B. Hunting opportunities on both parcels exist primarily for whitetail deer, wild turkey, cottontail rabbit, gray squirrel, and ruffed grouse. Coyotes, bobcat, and grey fox may also provide furtaking opportunities on this game lands. No pheasant stocking opportunities exist on this game lands.

Hiking, bird watching, and berry picking are other lawful activities that occur on this game lands. This game lands is relatively small in size and is not a major attraction for these activities. No mountain bike, snowmobile, or horseback trails are located on either parcel of SGL 224.





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