



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. 227 SCHUYLKILL COUNTY State Game Lands (SGL) 227 is located in Rush and Schuylkill Townships in northeastern Schuylkill County. The deeded acreage for this game lands is 1,506 acres and it is in Land Management Group III of the Southeast Region in Wildlife Management Unit 4C. The property is situated 1 mile north of the Tamaqua Borough and just to the west of Hometown.

Public access to the various sections of the property is quite good. Visitors can use State Route 309 to access the area at the northern end while LR53097 from State Route 309 can access the southern end of the property. State Route 54 and Township Road 860 bisect the interior sections. There are three parking lots located along LR53097 and one each on State Route 54 and Township Road 860. There are 3.1 miles of maintained administrative roads providing for public access to this area by foot. The gated roads and rights-of-wayprovide access for hunters and avenues for hiking, wildlife photography and bird-watching. All roads are currently closed year-round to public motor vehicle traffic and there are no designated routes for horseback riding, mountain biking, or snowmobiling.

The terrain of the property includes steep mountain sides and deep valleys. Elevation ranges from 1400' along Locust Mountain to 600' in the numerous stream drainages. Approximately 94% (1450 acres) of SGL 227 is forested. The other 6% (94 acres) of the property is divided among herbaceous openings with interspersed shrub thickets, right-of-ways and access roads. The major cover types on the property include mixed oak on the ridges and mountain side slopes, with a combination of mixed oak, hemlock and white pine along the river and stream bottoms.

This Game Land is situated entirely in Wildlife Management Unit 4C. Both big game and small game are hunted on SGL 227. Deer, black bear, turkey, grouse, rabbits and squirrels are found here. Ducks and Geese are occasionally hunted along the Schuylkill River and on the game lands small impoundments and streams. Coyotes, foxes and raccoons are actively trapped on the game lands. There are also opportunities for muskrat and mink trapping along the Schuylkill River and some of its small tributaries.

Public utilization of this game lands is very extensive. Sport hunting for game species is not the only major activity. Intensive public activity can be found year round. The Schuylkill River, Neifert's Dam, Locust Creek and Pine Creek offer trout fishing opportunities and observation of raptures, fall foliage viewings, bird-watching and hiking are all common activities on the site. 5/22/2012

