

SPORTSMEN'S RECREATION MAP



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



STATE GAME LANDS No. 228 SOMERSET COUNTY

State game land (SGL) 228 is located in Shade Township, Somerset County, in Wildlife Management Unit 2C, and currently has a deeded acreage of 3,906.14 acres. Located in Pennsylvania Game Commission's (PGC) Southwest Region Land Management Group Four, SGL 228 is maintained by a four member crew.

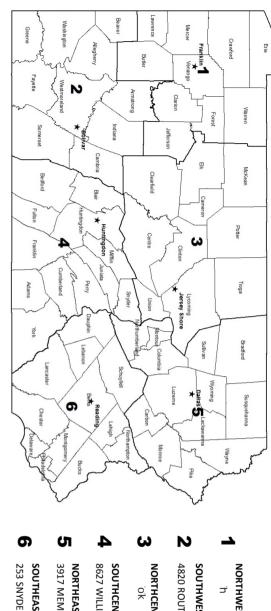
The Game Commission currently maintains five parking areas on SGL 228. There are approximately 10 miles of maintained administrative roads throughout SGL 228 providing for public access to this area by foot. All roads are currently closed year-round to public motor vehicle traffic, and access is controlled with locked gates. The gated roads and rights-of-way provide access for hunters and avenues for hiking, wildlife photography and bird-watching. The farthest point on SGL 228 by foot from a parking area or public road is approximately 1.5 miles.

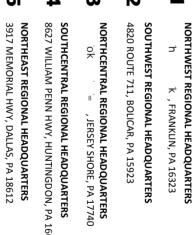
The overall goal for SGL 228 is to manage for mixed successional habitat. Forest management will focus on management practices that favor habitat requirements of white-tailed deer, grouse, turkey, and American woodcock. Hunting for these species as well as for bears, ring-necked pheasants, and squirrels is popular in this area. Prominent furtaking opportunities include raccoon and red fox.

The non-game mammal emphasis will be on improving the microhabitat needs for bats and maintaining the high quality mature forest conditions as demonstrated by the presence indicator bird species such as the Acadian flycatchers, black-throated blue warbler, and broad-winged hawk. As part of any scheduled forestry practice, snags will be protected and/or created and shagbark hickory trees preserved to provide roosting sites bats. Some of the taller shagbark hickories will be daylighted to improve their roosting site characteristics. Snags will also provide cavities for nesting sites and additional food sources for insectivorous birds such as woodpeckers and chimney swifts. Maintaining and improving quality riparian habitat will provide travel corridors and foraging areas for bats as well as benefiting mink, weasels, and several species of birds.

Hunting opportunities are impacted by the relatively small and easily accessible nature of this game land. Species such as deer, bear, and turkey can move readily on and off SGL 228 and adjacent private property based on levels of hunting pressure and food availability. Habitat practices encouraging mixed successional stages of forest regeneration improve the availability of food and cover for deer, bear, and turkey and consequently, encourage greater proportions of these animals' home range on the game land.

There are nearly eight miles of designated trails on SGL 228 for horseback riding and mountain biking. The game land administrative road that traverses the entire length of SGL 228 (north and south) provides multiple good access points for hiking, bird watching, berry and mushroom picking.





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