



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



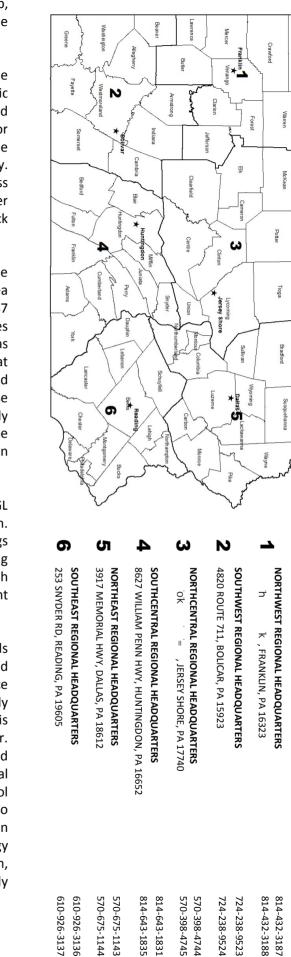
STATE GAME LANDS No. 247 ARMSTRONG COUNTY State game land (SGL) 247 is located in North Buffalo Township, Armstrong County, in wildlife management unit (WMU) 2D. The current deeded acreage of this game land is 452.3 acres.

State game land 247 has 3.7 miles of administrative roads and three (3) parking lots. All roads are currently closed year-round to public motor vehicle traffic, and access is controlled with six (6) locked gates. The farthest point on SGL 247 by foot from a parking area or public road is approximately 1/2 mile. This game land is used by the public for hunting, trapping, hiking, bird-watching, and photography. Gated roads, gas line, and power line rights-of-way provide access for hunters and trappers as well as avenues for hiking, and other outdoor activities. There are no designated routes for horseback riding, mountain biking, or snowmobiling.

With the Allegheny River just one mile away, the rolling hills of the drainage and the fertile flood plains make the surrounding area conducive to agriculture. The habitat management goal for SGL 247 is to maintain mixed succession conditions with a focus on practices that favor pheasant, white-tailed deer, and American woodcock. Gas development activities (roads and well sites), as well as the habitat history of SGL 247 have created a network of edge effect and openings that necessitate a management direction toward these species. The farmland and early successional habitats already present will be maintained and improved. Specific attention will be paid to low-land transitional habitat that benefits American woodcock and other early-successional species.

In addition to game species, all habitat management activities on SGL 247 will consider avian and mammalian species of concern. Preserving bat roost trees such as shagbark hickory, creating snags for non-game cavity nesters such as chimney swifts, and improving riparian habitat quality for species such as the Louisiana waterthrush and cerulean warbler will be among the habitat management prescriptions for this SGL.

Generally, the silvicultural approach to achieve management goals includes even-aged management such as thinning, shelterwood and regeneration release. Some cuts will also be used to enhance microhabitat in the area through the creation of coarse woody debris. Under-planting of conifers will also be used to enhance this forest component and to provide additional winter thermal cover. Herbaceous openings will be maintained in legume and legume/mixed vegetation, maximizing soil-defined growth potential where topography permits; this will include conversion of cool season grass to old field cover, legumes, and food plots. Areas too steep for equipment operation will be planted where appropriate in mast-producing trees or shrubs. Ultimately, the long-term strategy for herbaceous openings will be a minimal maintenance approach, planting multi-season and perennial forbs and providing for early successional habitat in border areas. 9/30/2011



CONTACT THE FOLLOWING

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION