

## 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. 251 HUNTINGDON COUNTY

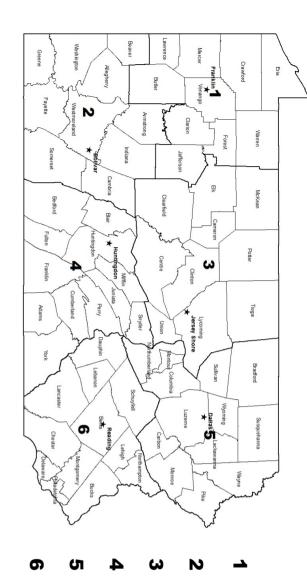
State Game Lands (SGL) 251 is managed by the Game Commission's Southcentral Region and consists of 4,229 acres in one tract located in Tell Township, Huntingdon County near the village of Richvale. SGL 251 is located in wildlife management unit 4B.

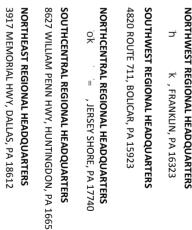
State Game Lands 251 is located on ridges in Shade Valley between Shade and Tuscarora mountains in the Ridge and Valley physiographic province of Pennsylvania. Elevations range from about 800 feet above mean sea level along Tuscarora Creek to 1,340 feet on top of Big Ridge. The game lands are dominated by deciduous forests interspersed with conifer stands, and herbaceous areas. Of the total Game Lands acreage, 87% is forested. The majority of the remaining acreage is herbaceous areas and shrublands (10%).

Access to the Game Lands is excellent via several township roads (TR 344, TR 346, and TR 355) and SR2015. All of these are accessed from SR3005. Mountain Foot Road (TR 352) provides access to the eastern side of the Game Lands via township roads TR 349, TR 355, TR 357 and TR 361. The PGC service roads and parking areas, as well as old logging roads and trails, provide pedestrian access to some interior parts of the Game Lands. Even though the northern most compartment of the SGL is accessible by Fultz Hollow Road, no parking areas are on this detached section of Game Lands due to the topography of the area, however, SGL users will find limited areas to park off the side of the roadway. Due to private structures within 150 yards of the SGL boundary, approximately 223.7 acres of this Game Lands fall within safety zones.

SGL 251 is popular with small and big-game hunters. Commonly pursued species include wild turkey, white-tailed deer, black bear, gray squirrel, turkey, grey fox, and coyote. Ruffed grouse are reliably present in modest numbers. Other popular non-consumptive wildlife recreation includes dog training, hiking, biking, bird-watching, mushroom hunting and fruit gathering, and horseback riding. A small pond located at a parking area along Resort Road is a popular destination for panfish anglers.

SGL 251 will be managed for mixed-successional conditions, focusing on mixed successional forest habitat with dispersed herbaceous wildlife openings and shrublands. Elements of early-,mid-, and late successional deciduous forest on the Game Lands will maintain habitat diversity and benefit a variety of wildlife by providing foraging, thermal, breeding, nesting, and escape cover for forest generalists ( white-tailed deer, wild turkey, squirrels), resident songbirds (e.g., pileated woodpecker, screech owl, black-capped chickadee, tufted titmouse, eastern blue-jay), neotropical migrants of greatest conservation need (prairie warbler, yellow-breasted chat, blue-winged warbler, scarlet tanager, brown thrasher, wood thrush) and early-successional wildlife (e.g., ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbit, chestnut-sided warbler, eastern towhee, common yellowthroat). Herbaceous openings will continue to be managed for eastern cottontails, the popular put-and-take pheasant hunting program, and the benefit of other game and non-game wildlife.





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