

TOGETHER FOR WARRIERS WARRIERS NOS

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. 253
VENANGO COUNTY

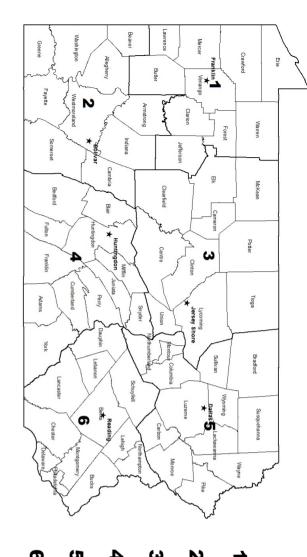
State Game Land (SGL) 253 is a single contiguous tract containing approximately 665 acres, located in Cornplanter township in northeastern Venango County in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Northwest Region (Wildlife Management Unit 2F).

SGL 253 is accessed via SR 227 and Oleopolis Road, as well as Eagle Rock Road. A parking area is located on the east side of the road. There are a series of gated oil well roads on the western side of SR 1005, maintained by the well operation. Only one of these roads is drivable by 4WD vehicles, but they do give walk-in access to the western section of the game land. Berry Road (T-571) turns north off of Oleopolis Road and cuts through the eastern third of the game land. Berry Road is not maintained by Cornplanter Township in the winter, but it is usually drivable throughout the hunting season. There are two parking areas along this road. None of the game land roads are open or suitable for public vehicular traffic. The farthest point on the game land from a public access area is the extreme southern end, approximately 0.1 miles from Berry Road.

The purchase of SGL 253 marked a milestone in Pennsylvania Game Commission history. This acquisition of 665 acres included the one-millionth acre of land acquired as part of the game lands system. The purchase of SGL 253 was approved on April 12, 1965 and dedicated on June 19, 1965 by Governor William W. Scranton. A monument was erected to designate the occasion.

Topography varies from gentle slopes to steep hillsides. The elevation on the area ranges from approximately 1100 feet above sea level near Pithole Creek to 1580 feet above sea level. SGL 253 is 95% forested, with most of the remaining acreage in old field/reverting shrublands and openings.

SGL 253 is best suited to turkey, grouse, deer, and limited small game hunting, as well as fox and raccoon hunting and trapping. Bear hunting pressure is light. All roads are closed year-round to public motor vehicle traffic, and there are no designated routes for horseback riding, mountain biking, or snowmobiling. Bird watching opportunities exist. Some local residents walk the herbaceous roadways. Pithole Creek offers trout fishing opportunities. Recreation is mainly limited to hunting related activities, such as beagle and bird dog training. Geocaching also occurs on SGL 253 with two known locations near the monument. Cross-country skiing has been observed.



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