



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. 259 ARMSTRONG COUNTY

State game land (SGL) 259 is located in Sugarcreek and West Franklin Townships, Armstrong County, in wildlife management unit 2D (WMU 2D) and currently has 351.66 acres.

The southern end of SGL 259 can be accessed from SR 422 in Worthington to Bear Road, then taking Bear Road north to Lairds Crossing Road to Gameland Road (SR 4013). The eastern tract of the game land can be accessed from SR 268 to Foster Mill Road. The PGC currently maintains two public parking areas and both are located along Gameland Road. The farthest area by foot from any parking lot or public road is approximately 0.4 mile. There are 0.7 miles of maintained administrative roads on SGL 259. These roads provide for public access to the interior by foot. All roads are currently closed year-round to motor vehicles and access is controlled with signage and one locked gate.

The terrain of SGL 259 is made up of steep hills and a plateau that flanks Patterson Creek. With elevations ranging from 1,180 ft to 1,480 feet this small, mostly forested game land is rolling with some steep hills. State game land 259 is 90% forested with a lesser amount of herbaceous openings and shrubland present. The forest is mostly comprised of mixed hardwoods and black cherry but also includes some oak forest types.

Hunting and furtaking opportunities include white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, squirrel, and turkey. Black bear, inhabit the area; however, they are not heavily pursued on this game land. Furtaking opportunities include raccoon, coyote, red fox, gray fox and mink. Trapping for furbearers can be pursued along a tributary to Patterson Creek that flows through the game land. No stocking of ring-necked pheasant occurs on the SGL. Hunting opportunities are impacted by the relatively small and easily accessible nature of this SGL. Species such as deer, bear, and turkey move readily on and off this game land and adjacent private land based on levels of hunting pressure and food availability. Habitat practices encouraging mixed succession stages of forest regeneration will improve the availability of food and cover for deer and turkey and, consequently, may encourage these game animals to remain within SGL boundaries.

A relatively small game land, SGL 259 is not of sufficient size to accommodate horseback riding, mountain biking and snowmobiling and does not contain any designated routes for these activities. It does, however, contain two gated roads and trails used for management activities and the maintenance of gas lines. These gated roads and ROWs provide very nice avenues for hiking, bird watching, and other similar forms of outdoor activities. 5/14/2012

