

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. 260 LUZERNE COUNTY

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

State Game Lands (SGL) 260 consists of 3115.8 acres and is located in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's (PGC) Northeast Region. SGL 260 lies within Huntington, Salem and Union Townships in central Luzerne County. The Game Lands is one contiguous tract with several private inholdings, along with one small isolated tract of 55.39 acres west of the main tract between T-445 and Huntington Creek known as Franklin Flats. SGL 260 is about 14 air miles southwest of Wilkes-Barre and approximately 7 miles north of the borough of Berwick.

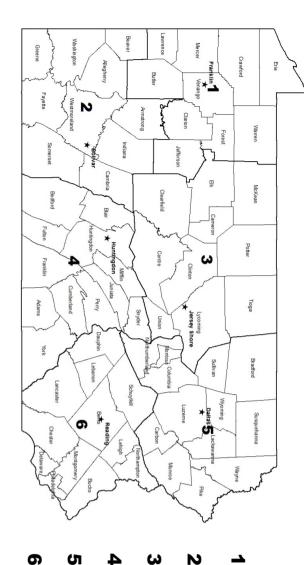
Public access to the SGL 260 is provided by US 11 along the Susquehanna River, SR 4004 along the Little Shickshinny Creek and T445 along Huntington Creek. Several parking areas are maintained and available for public use. There are also several gated administrative roads on the tract.

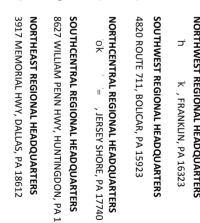
The topography is primarily steep side hill to narrow ridge top flats. Elevations range from 700 feet in the Little Shickshinny Creek basin to 1,400 or 1,500 feet on the ridge tops. State Game Lands 260 is predominately an oak forest, with a wide variety of other hardwood species and several conifer species also present. Oak species present include red, white, scarlet, black and chestnut. Other common hardwood species found are red maple, black birch, yellow poplar and black gum. Conifer species include hemlock, white pine and pitch pine. The majority of the forest stands on SGL 260 are in the 40-80 year range.

At one time, at least part of the water supply for Shickshinny was drawn from the Game Lands. Dams on the Little Shickshinny Creek formed reservoirs. The pipeline from the upper dam still exists, although it has at least one major leak.

During the mid 1800's, coal exploration and mining activity began on parts of Lee Mountain north of Rocky Run. Numerous coal companies mined locations on State Game Lands 260 and the adjacent mountains. John M. Stackhouse, owner of Stackhouse Coal Company, was among the miners that had worked on this mountain. In 1869, the Paxton Coal Company purchased the mines and built coal breakers and other structures on the game lands. Remnants of this infrastructure can still be found today, along with open mine shafts, bore holes, and culm banks. Formed in 1873, The Salem Coal Company was the largest proprietor of the Shickshinny mines. During peak operations, 65,000 tons of coal per year was mined from the mountains which employed 200 men and boys. Areas located on top of Lee Mountain currently are subsiding due to the abandoned mines.

The principal species hunted on SGL 260 are white-tailed deer, black bear, eastern wild turkey, and gray squirrel. Furbearers also provide opportunities for the sportsman with mink, muskrat, raccoon, red and gray fox, and eastern coyote. Hiking, bird watching, and crosscountry skiing are lawful recreational activities that occur occasionally. The high ridges of Franklin Flats should prove attractive to birders particularly during times of migration. There is no fish stocking on this Game Lands and any populations of fish are selfsustaining.





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