



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. 264 DAUPHIN & SCHUYLKILL COUNTIES State Game Land (SGL) 264 (8,836 acres) is located in rural Dauphin and Schuylkill Counties within the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Southeast Region (Wildlife Management Unit 4E). The property is located in Lykens, Washington, Wiconisco and Williams Townships in Dauphin County and Hegins and Porter Townships in Schuylkill County. The game land borders the towns of Wiconisco and Williamstown on the south and Gratz on the north. State Route 25 runs parallel to the game land on its north side and State Route 209 does the same on its south side. State Route 209 is the divider between WMU's 4E and 4C.

State Game Land 264 has four different unattached tracts ranging in size from 0.16 acres to 103.1 acres that are in close proximity to the game land proper. North of Millersburg, along the banks of the Susquehanna River, a unique 13 acres of floodplain swamp known locally as "Cumming's Swamp", is attached to SGL 264 administratively. This tract was obtained from the Ned Smith estate, gifted to the Game Commission by the late Marie Smith and lies some 19 miles to the west of the main body of SGL 264.

The property is located on three mountain ranges; Bear Mountain to the north, Big Lick Mountain to the south and Short Mountain on the western end of the property. Bear Valley is situated between Bear Mountain and Big Lick Mountain. Elevation ranges from 1,600' on the mountaintops to 700' in the bottoms. At the eastern end of the game lands the headwaters of Bear Creek and Bear Swamp are located in Bear Valley. Nearly 97% (8,703 acres) of SGL 264 is forested.

There are several parking areas that can be accessed from these state route roads. Internal service roads start at each parking lot and provide access to the interior of the game lands. There are 15 miles of maintained administrative roads providing public access to this area by foot. The gated roads and right-of-ways provide access for hunters and trappers and avenues for hiking. Bird watchers occasionally use the main trails and abandoned RR beds. There are also several constructed ponds on the south side of the game lands northwest of Wiconsico that is part of an incomplete acid mine drainage remediation project originally funded with a Growing Greener grant.

Both big game and small game are hunted on SGL 264. Deer, black bear, turkey, grouse, and squirrels are hunted here. Red fox, gray fox, coyote and raccoons provide trapping opportunities. There are also many opportunities for hiking on the more than 15 miles of roads found on the game lands. There is an abandoned RR bed along the south edge of the game land that is designated as a horse and bike trail. 7/2/2013

