

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. 269 **CRAWFORD COUNTY**

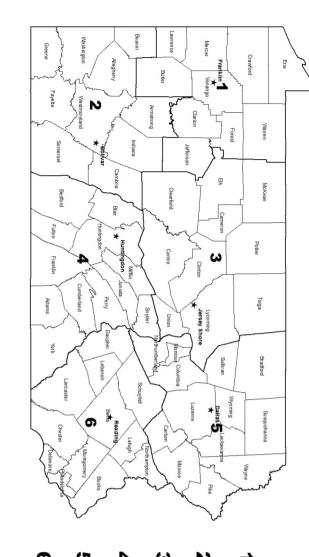
State Game Land 269 is comprised of 3 tracts totaling 685 acres within the PGC's Northwest Region, Wildlife Management Unit 1B. It is about 30 road miles southwest of Erie, 11.3 miles west of Cambridge Springs, 11.7 miles southeast of Albion, 12.9 miles north of Meadville and about 10.9 miles southwest of the college town of Edinboro, in Cussewago Township, Crawford County, Pennsylvania.

State Game Land 269 was purchased in 4 parcels, with 585 of the 685 acres purchased from a single owner in 1969. Minor additions occurred in 1975 with the final 95-acre acquisition occurring in 2003.

State Game Land 269 is located a couple of miles south of the very small crossroad town known as Crossingville. Most of the game land is situated between Route 98 and North Mosiertown Road (SR4011). The game land is easily accessed by roads. Center Road (T-841) provides access to the northern portion. North Mosiertown Road provides access to the eastern portion, including the Food and Cover headquarters, and Beaver Road (aka Hrenick Rd.) (T-805) provides access to the southern portion of the game land. Additionally, Lake Road (T-496) bisects the game land into east and west portions, and provides access to the main impoundment and the boat ramp. Route 98 does provide road frontage along the Zitelli Tract of the game land, but there are no parking areas along this route. All the other aforementioned roads contain PGC parking areas (total = 6).

Hunters actively pursue, deer, turkey, waterfowl and small game, including stocked ring-necked pheasants, on SGL 269. Trappers can readily find beaver, muskrat, mink, fox and raccoons as well. Fishing for bass and panfish is popular in the main impoundment. A boat ramp on Lake Road provides ready access. State Game Land 269 is part of the Cussewago Bottoms important Bird Area and birders can find a variety of wetland, shrub and forest associated birds there.

Approximately half the game land is forested. It harbors a rich oak and hickory component as well as many soft mast producing species. The glaciated soils tend to be wet and wetlands and their associated biota are common throughout the game land. There are 4 manmade impoundments with water level control devices that provide water level manipulation opportunities. There are also several small borrow ponds. Agricultural activities provide some food plots, but have been reduced over the years and now only occur on the dryer compatible sites.



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