



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. 270 MERCER COUNTY

State Game Land 270 is comprised of two separate tracts located in northern Mercer County with a deeded acreage of 2202.601 acres. The SGL is located in Sandy Creek, New Vernon and Deer Creek Townships in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Northwest Region (Wildlife Management Unit 1A).

The SGL was acquired in 1967 and was a Project 70 project centering on Lake Wilhelm, an impoundment built for flood control and recreation. Lake Wilhelm is bisected by Interstate 79; the impoundment and land to the west comprises the original and main parcel of the SGL; the lake and land to the east is Maurice K. Goddard State Park.

The SGL is easily accessed via US Route 19 and Georgetown Road. There are numerous formal and informal parking areas and two boat launches. The furthest point from public access is 1.1 miles by land (due to I-79 and the lake). The distance to the same point from the nearest parking lot by water is 400 feet.

Topography varies from level to gently rolling, which permits management access to most of the game land. Elevation varies from 1,450 feet above sea level to 1,200 feet above sea level near Lake WilhelmSGL. SGL 270 is fifty-six percent forested, with the majority of the forest cover being black cherry - northern hardwoods. The remaining forest habitat types are listed according to percent of coverage: northern hardwood, bottomland oak–hardwood palustrine, aspen/grey birch, red maple–elm-willow floodplains, hemlock–mixed hardwood palustrine, red oak-mixed hardwood, red maple, hemlock (white pine)–northern hardwood, spruce plantation, red pine-mixed hardwood, mixed mesophytic, red maple-black gum palustrine and hemlock (white pine).

The lake, wetlands and mixed successional habitat conditions on this game land provide good hunting and furtaking opportunities. The lake and wetlands provide waterfowl hunting, both duck and geese. The large sharecropped agricultural fields provide goose hunting and limited small game hunting. The shrublands provide excellent woodcock hunting and rabbit hunting is very popular. The SGL is stocked with pheasants and some of the heaviest hunting pressure is on the released birds. A healthy turkey population brings out many hunters for both spring and fall seasons. Deer hunting is popular in all seasons. Beaver, muskrat, mink and raccoon trapping are also popular.

Fishing, bird watching, canoeing, kayaking and cross-country skiing are lawful recreational activities that occur on the SGL. Fishing is the most popular outdoor activity on the SGL. There is heavy fishing pressure for panfish. Ice-fishing pressure is also heavy. Night fishing is popular at road access points. Snapping turtle trapping and the taking of frogs also occur. There has been geocaching activity. 9/30/2011

