

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. 293 **ELK COUNTY**

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

State Game Lands(SGL) 293 lies within the city limits of St. Mary's, Elk County, PA. State Game Lands 293 is one continuous parcel of land consisting of 5,472.16 acres and located in the north east section of Elk County. It is completely within the Pennsylvania Game Commissions Management Unit 2G.

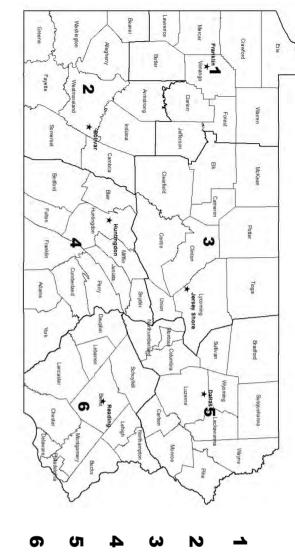
Hunters can easily reach SGL 293 as it lays just 1 mile north of RT 120 about 5 miles east of downtown St. Mary's. Good access exists along Jackson Road (T-432) which divides SGL 293 into two sections. The access along Jackson Road follows a small brook trout stream. From that road the rest of the game lands must be reached on foot up each side of the valley or from private properties located on the hill tops bordering the game lands. The furthest distance from the twp road is about 1.5 miles. Numerous old unmaintained logging trails and roads make for easy walking throughout SGL 293. An old RR grade runs along its northern section which is in the Rail Banking Program and makes good access for foot travelers. It is not open for vehicle travel.

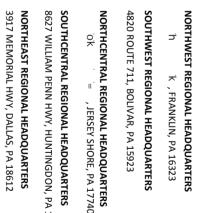
SGL 293 was one large private holding until purchased for State Game Lands in October of 1977. Originally totaling 2279.64 acres. Just prior to the purchase it had been recently timbered over much of its acreage which resulted in today's large amount of pole timber. Some of the new growth 30 years ago on the western side next to old private farm lands reverted to mixed aspen stands. Those stands are being maintained as 2.5 acre "grouse blocks".

The rest of the game lands consist of mostly northern hardwoods with a small amount of oak stands on the northern border hillsides. Black Cherry, beech and red and sugar maple are the predominate tree species. Much of the beech is being damaged and killed by the beech bark disease complex.

There are about seven scattered locations of natural conifers (mostly native hemlock) throughout SGL 293 and one of those stands has a good mixture of maturing white pine in it. These natural conifer stands are an important component for many wildlife species year round, in the summer furnishing cool shade especially along wet areas and in the winter providing thermal cover from wind and snow.

This game lands is located entirely in Wildlife Management Unit 2G. The principle species hunted on all compartments are whitetailed deer, eastern wild turkey, black bear, gray squirrel and ruffed grouse. Cottontail rabbit and woodcock are hunted to a lesser extent where appropriate habitat exists. Furbearer trapping opportunities include beaver, bobcat, eastern coyote, gray fox, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, red fox, and striped skunk. Hiking, bird watching, fishing, bicycling, and cross-country skiing are lawful recreational activities that occur occasionally. This game lands is relatively small in size and is not a major attraction for these activities.





570-675-1143 570-675-1144

814-643-1831 814-643-1835