



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. 314 **ERIE COUNTY**

State Game Land (SGL) 314 is comprised of a single tract totaling 3,564.9 deeded acres within the Pennsylvania Game Commission's (PGC) Northwest Region, Wildlife Management Unit 1B. It is located just north of the small town of West Springfield about 30 road miles west of Erie and 10 miles northwest of Albion, in Springfield Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania.

It is bordered by Ohio on the west and Lake Erie on the north. Interstate 90, and PA Routes, 5, 6 and 20 all provide rather quick access to the vicinity. Several township roads provide easy access to most any area of the game land, with the most popular access point provided by Rudd Road.

The focus of this plan is to engage in an ambitious large scale habitat restoration project that will restore prime habitat for woodcock and other shrub-dependent birds such as the bluewinged warbler. These birds represent a guild of birds that is rapidly declining in PA due to habitat loss and degradation. The plan also focuses on improving habitat for deer, turkeys and squirrels as well.

The primary hunting activity at SGL 314 centers on deer, turkey, fox squirrel, gray squirrel and American woodcock. Rabbits and stocked ring-necked pheasants are also actively pursued. Also, hunting covotes with dogs appears to be popular as well. Hunters can be observed training dogs on coyotes nearly year round. Another popular activity that has been somewhat controversial is crow hunting. Crows traveling along the Lake Erie shoreline provide good opportunities for hunters. The shoreline is also a roosting area for bald eagles and some suspect that eagles may be feasting on crow carcasses containing lead pellets. Additionally, many crow hunters have hung the carcasses of harvested crows in the trees to serve as decoys, but have failed to remove them at the conclusion of their hunt. This has generated some discontent among visitors to the game land.

There is some limited waterfowl hunting in the shallow water impoundments, and the beaver dams on the game land. Beaver, muskrat, mink, fox, coyotes, and raccoon are common on the game land and represent opportunities for trappers. Muskrats have damaged the dikes in the wetland impoundments.

2/19/2014

