

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



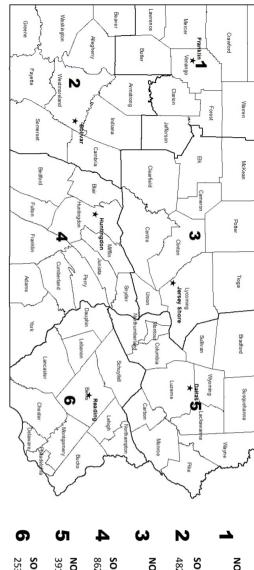
STATE GAME LANDS No. 326 SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

State Game Lands 326 (SGL) is located in Central Schuylkill County in the townships of Blythe, New Castle, and Butler. The deeded acreage for this game lands is 2,690.60 acres and is in Land Management Group III of the Southeast Region in Wildlife Management Unit 4E & 4C. The Mill Creek flows through the Game Lands and into the Schuvlkill River.

This game lands is split into three different pieces The western piece is located in Butler Township just south of the town of Gordon. The second piece is only 135 acres located in the middle of the Minersville Water Authorities holdings. The Minersville Water Authority is open to public access. The third parcel is located east of route 61 just south of Frackville in Blythe Township. Topography varies from gentle to steep slopes and relatively level on the top of the mountains. Elevations range from 900 ft. along the Main Road into Gordon to over 1,600 ft. The surrounding area on the western section is farm land and industrial areas.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission currently maintains four parking areas on SGL 326. There are eight miles of maintained administrative roads providing for public access to the game lands. The gated roads provide access for hunters, fishermen and avenues for hiking, bird watching and wildlife photography. The old state road on the western tract located in Butler Township just south of Gordon is opened during the major hunting seasons to public motor vehicle traffic and there are no designated routes for horseback riding, mountain biking or snowmobiling on the western section or Compartments 1 and 2. There is a township road on the eastern section of compartment 2 of the game lands called the Stage Coach Road that is open year round to vehicle travel which leads to a Game Commission maintained parking lot. There is no winter maintenance on this township road. The other access is through the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority's access road located off of the Burma Road in Blythe Township. This gated road is gated but unlocked during the major hunting seasons. The access road leads to a Game Commission maintained parking area. Another parking / access area is located along route 61 just south of Frackville on the North bound road. This large parking lot leads to old railroad tracks open to horseback, bicycling and hiking.

This game lands is situated in Wildlife Management Unit 4C and 4E. Both big game and small game are hunted on SGL 326. Deer, black bear, turkey, grouse, rabbits, and squirrels are found here. Gray fox, raccoons and coyotes could be trapped on the game lands. Hiking, biking, horseback riding and bird watching are lawful recreational activities that occur occasionally.



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