

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION**



**AGENDA
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
January 28, 2023**

Bryan Burhans

Bryan Burhans
Executive Director

Table of Contents

Call to Order1
Pledge of Allegiance.....1
Roll Call of Commissioners.....1
Approval of Minutes of Meeting held September 24, 20221

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

PROPOSED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code §§ 143.41-143.45 and remove §§ 143.48-143.56.....2
B. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 139.1712
C. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 139.414
D. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 133.2126
E. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 135.3528

ADOPTED RULE MAKING

F. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 147.70132
G. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 141.634

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION

PROPOSED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 147.28236
B. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 141.438
C. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 141.6741

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

PROPOSED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code §§ 135.101-135.107.....42

ADOPTED RULE MAKING

B. Amend 58 Pa. Code §§ 131.2 and 135.41.....54

REAL ESTATE

C. Donation
Contract No. L-3804, State Game Land No. 313, Tioga County58
Contract No. L-3805, State Game Land No. 105, Armstrong County60
Contract No. L-3806, State Game Land No. 332, Indiana County.....62

D. Acquisition	
Contract No. L-3807, State Game Land No. 197, Warren County.....	64
Contract No. L-3808, State Game Land No. 331, Clearfield County.....	66
Contract No. L-3809, State Game Land No. 44, Elk County	68
Contract No. L-3810, State Game Land No. 323, Centre County	70
Contract No. L-3811, State Game Land No. 323, Centre County	72
Contract No. L-3812, State Game Land No. 141, Carbon County	74
Contract No. L-3813, State Game Land No. 57, Wyoming County.....	76
Contract No. L-3814, State Game Land No. 57, Wyoming County.....	78
Contract No. L-3815, State Game Land No. 116, Pike County.....	80
Contract No. L-3816, State Game Land No. 139, Bucks County.....	82
Contract No. L-3818, State Game Land No. 168, Northampton County	84
E. Exchange	
Contract No. L-3817, State Game Land No. 243, York County	86
State Game Land No. 91, Luzerne County	88
F. Dedication of Township Road	
State Game Land No. 203, Springdale Township, Allegheny County	90
G. Information Items	
Notational Vote	
Contract L-3803, State Game Land No. 117, Washington County	92
Other New Business.....	94
Executive Session, if necessary, will be held immediately following the close of the Commission Meeting	94
Adjournment	94

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Game Commission

Agenda

The Commission Meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2023, at 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Commissioners

Michael F. Mitrick, President
Kristen Schnepf-Giger, Vice President
Dennis R. Fredericks, Secretary
Allen J. DiMarco
Scott H. Foradora
Stanley I. Knick, Jr.
Todd A. Pride
Haley J. Sankey
Robert C. Schwalm

Approval of Minutes of Commission Meetings held September 24, 2022.

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

PROPOSED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code §§ 143.41-143.45 and remove §§ 143.48-143.56.

Commentary:

Historically, County Treasurers have been the only class of issuing agents that were legally authorized to issue antlerless deer licenses. This limited authority structure necessitated the use of an inflexible and outdated mail-in antlerless license application process that generated inconsistent distribution results from year to year and from county to county. The act of November 3, 2022 (P.L. 1317, No. 148) (Act 148) expanded the Commission's authority to designate additional classes of issuing agents that are authorized to issue antlerless deer licenses. This legislation became effective January 2, 2023.

Under this new legislation, the Commission is now able to designate any or all issuing agent classes as authorized to issue antlerless licenses. With these expanded issuing agent opportunities, the Commission is now able to implement full use of all of the PALS license sales system services for antlerless licenses that have been available for other license types for many years, including online and over-the-counter sales. The Commission does not anticipate that this modernized sales process will result in a significantly different license purchasing experience for most antlerless deer license applicants as it expects that many of these purchases will be combined with other license product purchases a la carte at the beginning of the license year.

The Commission is proposing to amend §§ 143.41-143.45 (relating to purpose and scope; definitions; preamble; and application) and remove §§ 143.48-143.56 (relating to first-come-first-served license issuance; issuing license; procedure for nonresidents of this Commonwealth; application and issuance of unsold tags; procedure for unlimited antlerless licenses; reapplication; validity of license; unlawful acts; and penalties) to eliminate the mail-in process and replace it with an online and over-the-counter process. These amendments will make two notable changes to the antlerless deer license regulations. First, the eligibility criteria for the issuance of antlerless deer licenses outside of the allocations established wildlife management units have been slightly expanded to include additional eligibility for disabled veteran and landowner licenses. Second, the antlerless deer license consecutive sales rounds timeline has been advanced a few weeks as a result of the elimination of the slower mail-in procedures.

The remaining amendments to the regulatory text reorganize and reconstitute existing procedures and requirements for the distribution of antlerless deer licenses. The Commission will continue to accept applications for antlerless deer licenses allocated to each wildlife management units on a first-come-first-served basis through one or more

sales rounds that will continue until the supply of licenses is exhausted for each unit. This process will maintain the familiar three round application process that limits the distribution of one antlerless deer license per round followed by a fourth round of continuous over the counter sales for those wildlife management units with remaining allocations.

Chapter 143. HUNTING AND FURTKER LICENSES

Subchapter C. ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSES

§ 143.41. ~~[Purpose and scope]~~ General.

(a) ~~[The intent of this section is to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of licenses]~~ The purpose of this subchapter is to implement a structure and process that provides for the fair and equitable distribution of the antlerless deer licenses allocated by the Commission to each wildlife management unit annually.

(b) ~~[The Commission, after reviewing available management data, will establish the number of antlerless deer licenses allocated to each wildlife management unit]~~ The Commission will establish the annual allocation of antlerless deer licenses for each wildlife management unit after its review of available management data.

(c) ~~[An application shall be accepted without restriction or regard to the applicant's county of residence. The following procedure shall be adhered to when determining successful applicants for licenses:~~

(1) ~~Accept applications on a first come first served basis.~~

(2) ~~Envelopes received by first class mail delivered through and by the United States Postal Service will be processed and licenses issued as soon as practicable.~~

(3) ~~This process of license issuance will continue until the available supply of licenses for that wildlife management unit is exhausted]~~ The Commission will accept applications for antlerless deer licenses allocated to each wildlife management unit on a first-come-first-served basis through one or more sales rounds that will continue until the supply of licenses is exhausted for each unit.

(d) ~~[The Commission may act in the capacity of a county treasurer for issuing antlerless licenses if authority to issue licenses has been removed from any or all county treasurers.~~

(e) ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter limiting the number of licenses available, the Commission will authorize antlerless deer licenses to be issued regardless of an established quota to]~~ Except as provided in subsection (e) below, notwithstanding the provisions of this subchapter limiting the total number of antlerless deer licenses allocated to each wildlife management unit, the Commission will establish a review process to authorize the issuance of licenses outside of the allocations established in each wildlife management unit to:

(1) A resident of this Commonwealth serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States or in the United States Coast Guard or within 60 days of discharge from active duty under honorable conditions from the United States Armed Forces or United States Coast Guard.

(2) A disabled veteran as defined in 34 Pa.C.S. § 2706(b)(1) and (1.1) (relating to resident license and fee exemptions).

(3) An applicant who is eligible for a landowner antlerless deer license as authorized under 34 Pa.C.S. § 2706(c) (relating to resident license and fee exemptions; landowner antlerless deer license).

(4) An applicant whom the ~~[Executive Director]~~ the Commission has determined to have been erroneously denied ~~[a license]~~ an antlerless license.

(e) Except for subsection (d)(4), an eligible applicant may receive no more than one antlerless license each license year under any outside of allocation exception set forth in subsection (d). Should an applicant be eligible for two or more conditions, only one exception may be exercised each license year.

§ 143.42. ~~[Definitions]~~ Antlerless deer license required.

~~[The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

~~*Application*—The original PALS form issued with a regular hunting license or the original or reasonable facsimile of the universal form provided by the Commission that is used in applying for an antlerless license or an unsold tag.~~

~~*County treasurer*—A county treasurer in this Commonwealth or a person carrying out the duties and responsibilities of a county treasurer in counties functioning under a home rule charter.~~

~~*Date issued*—The date printed on the license at the time of issuance indicating when the license was mailed or given to the person named on the license.~~

~~*Envelope*—The official envelope issued with a regular hunting license which shall be used by the applicant to mail completed applications to a county treasurer.~~

~~*Home address*—The location where a person is legally domiciled; a true, fixed and permanent home and principal residence; and the place to which, whenever the applicant is temporarily absent, he intends to return.~~

~~*License*—The numbered license which is issued by the county treasurer or the Commission authorizing the holder thereof to hunt antlerless deer in a specific wildlife management unit.~~

~~*Management unit allocation*—The number of licenses allocated by the Commission to an individual wildlife management unit.~~

~~*Unsold tag*—An antlerless deer license permitting properly licensed persons to take an antlerless deer during any firearms antlerless deer season, archery or flintlock muzzleloader and muzzleloader deer seasons in the wildlife management unit of issue.~~

~~*Void*—A voided license which remains nonissuable.]~~

(a) *General rule.* Except as provided in subsection (b), a person must acquire and possess a valid antlerless deer license for an applicable wildlife management unit to lawfully hunt and take each antlerless deer within that unit during any open antlerless deer season established in § 139.4 (relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year). Each antlerless deer license is valid for taking only one antlerless deer only in the wildlife management unit designated on the license.

(b) *Exceptions.* The licensure requirements of subsection (a) do not apply to persons lawfully hunting antlerless deer in accordance with allowances and requirements of:

(1) *The agricultural lands license exemption as set forth in section 2706(a) of the act (relating to resident license and fee exemptions).*

(2) *Any applicable antlerless deer special permit issued by the Commission.*

(3) *The lawful cooperation and assistance authorizations or exceptions set forth in sections 2301(b) and 2325 of the act (relating to prima facie evidence of hunting; cooperation after lawfully killing big game and also § 141.43(e) (relating to deer seasons).*

§ 143.43. [~~Preamble~~] Antlerless license eligibility and application.

(a) [~~An application shall be submitted to a county treasurer and a license shall be issued only in accordance with the act and this subchapter~~] The Commission will make antlerless deer licenses available to eligible applicants for purchase through PALS online and at each of its current issuing agent locations across the Commonwealth.

(b) [~~A nonresident of this Commonwealth may only apply under § 143.50 (relating to procedure for nonresidents of this Commonwealth)~~] The Commission will only accept an application for an antlerless deer license from a person who meets all of the following criteria:

(1) *The person either currently possesses a valid base hunting license or is making a contemporaneous purchase of a valid base hunting license with the application for an antlerless deer license.*

(2) *At the time of application, the person has not exceeded application limits for antlerless deer licenses as set forth in § 143.45 (relating to antlerless deer license application limits).*

(3) The person has paid the applicable cost of the antlerless deer license, plus any applicable transactional and issuing agent fees established in section 2709 of the act (relating to license cost and fees).

(4) At the time of application, the person is not subject to any active hunting or furtaking license suspension or revocation.

§ 143.44. ~~[Application]~~ Antlerless license application schedule.

~~[It is unlawful to apply for more than one license before the unsold tag and unlimited antlerless license application periods as set forth in this chapter]~~ (a) Application schedule. The Commission will make antlerless licenses available for application through PALS online and at each of its current issuing agent locations across the Commonwealth according to the following distribution schedule:

(1) Round 1.

(i) Beginning the fourth Monday in June for all resident applicants.

(ii) Beginning the second Monday in July for all nonresident applicants.

(2) Round 2. Beginning the fourth Monday in July for all resident and nonresident applicants.

(3) Round 3. Beginning the second Monday in August for all resident and nonresident applicants.

(4) Round 4. Beginning the fourth Monday in August for all resident and nonresident applicants

(b) Application time. The Commission will open sales on the date for each respective round of antlerless deer license sales beginning at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time and sales will remain open thereafter for that respective round until allocations for each applicable wildlife management unit are exhausted.

§ 143.45. ~~[Completing and submitting applications]~~ Antlerless deer license application limits.

~~[(a) Except as otherwise provided in § 143.52 (relating to procedure for unlimited antlerless licenses) and for those applications submitted by qualified landowners, it is unlawful for a county treasurer to accept an application other than by regular first class mail delivered through and by the United States Postal Service. Applications for unsold antlerless deer licenses shall be accepted by county treasurers over the counter and may immediately be processed~~

~~if any licenses remain available in any wildlife management unit beginning on the second Monday in September.~~

~~(b) — Applications will not be accepted by county treasurers prior to the start of the normal business day on the second Monday in July.~~

~~(c) — The application shall be legibly completed, in its entirety, in accordance with instructions on the application. An applicant may enter up to three units, in order of preference, on the application.~~

~~(d) — The application shall be mailed only in the envelope provided.~~

~~(e) — Applications are limited to not more than three per envelope.~~

~~(f) — The envelope must contain return first class postage and a return address. If requirements of this subsection are not met, applications will be placed in a dead letter file and may be reclaimed by the applicant upon contacting the county treasurer's office. Postage, both forward and return, is the responsibility of the applicant.~~

~~(g) — Unless otherwise ordered by the Director, remittance shall be in the form of a negotiable check or money order payable to "County Treasurer" for applications enclosed, and in the total amount specified in the act for each license. Cash may be accepted by county treasurers for over the counter sales.]~~

(a) *Application limit.* Except as otherwise provided in subsections (b) and (c), an eligible applicant may submit only one antlerless deer license application for each open antlerless license sales round listed in § 143.44 (relating to antlerless license application schedule). The Commission will reject all applications in excess of these limits.

(b) *Catch-up allowance.* An eligible applicant may submit multiple antlerless deer license applications in a single transaction if the applicant had previously not applied for an antlerless deer license during one or more previous open rounds, and only then equal to the number of rounds currently open on the date of application.

(c) *Round 4 continuous sales.*

(1) Subject to the procedures and limitations of paragraph (2), an eligible applicant may submit multiple and continuous applications for antlerless deer licenses for each wildlife management unit whose antlerless deer license allocation remains unexhausted upon the opening of Round 4 of antlerless deer license sales on the date set forth in § 143.44 (relating to antlerless license application schedule). The authorizations of this subsection will terminate automatically for each wildlife management unit once its antlerless license allocation is exhausted.

(2) An eligible applicant may make one or more applications for antlerless licenses under this subsection only when the Commission's PALS licensing system shows five or less active and unfulfilled antlerless licenses on the applicant's license profile. Once an applicant has been issued a sixth cumulative active and unfulfilled antlerless license, the applicant will not be eligible to make reapplication for additional antlerless licenses until one or

more previously issued antlerless licenses have been exhausted by harvest and the harvest or harvests have resulted in a verified completed harvest report in PALS. At no time is an applicant authorized to exceed six cumulative active and unfulfilled antlerless licenses in their PALS license profile.

(d) *Resident agricultural lands exception.* A person exercising the privileges of the license exemption provided under section 2706(a) of the act (relating to resident license and fee exemptions; agricultural lands) on eligible lands is not entitled or required to obtain antlerless license(s) under this subchapter, but is subject to the same antlerless deer season limits that would otherwise apply to a licensed person hunting the wildlife management unit(s) covering the eligible lands as follows:

(1) Rounds 1, 2 and 3. An eligible person is authorized to harvest one deer for every antlerless deer license sales round, up to round 3, that is opened for the applicable wildlife management unit as set forth in § 143.44 (relating to antlerless license application schedule). No authorization to harvest an antlerless deer may be acquired for a round subsequent to round 1, 2, or 3 if the allocation for the applicable wildlife management unit is exhausted before the subsequent round opens.

(2) Round 4. An eligible person is authorized to harvest multiple and continuous antlerless deer up to the limits and subject to the reporting requirements and closure dates of subsection (c). The authorizations of this paragraph will terminate automatically for an eligible person hunting within an applicable wildlife management unit once the unit's antlerless license allocation is exhausted.

~~[§ 143.48. First come first served license issuance.~~

~~(a) — Envelopes containing applications will be accepted on a first come first served basis.~~

~~(b) — If there are more than three applications in one envelope, the enclosed applications will be rejected and returned to the sender as soon as practicable.~~

~~(c) — The first come first served procedure will continue until the management unit's allocation is exhausted.~~

~~(d) — Applications received over the management unit's allocation will be returned to the applicants as soon as practicable.~~

~~(e) — If an application fails to be in compliance with § 143.45 (relating to completing and submitting applications), applications enclosed in the envelope shall be rejected and returned by the county treasurer to the sender as soon as practicable.]~~

~~[§ 143.49. Issuing licenses.~~

~~(a) — Licenses may be issued by county treasurers immediately following receipt of applications.~~

~~(b) — Licenses will be issued through the Commission's PALS. The county treasurer shall write in ink the applicants' customer ID numbers on the face of the check or money order. If there are no licenses available in the applicant's first unit of preference, the county treasurer shall issue a license for the applicant's next unit of preference in the order given. If all three units have no licenses available, the county treasurer shall return the application to the applicant indicating that the selected units were sold out.~~

~~(c) — Except as otherwise provided in § 143.52 (relating to procedure for unlimited antlerless licenses) and for qualified landowners, licenses issued shall be delivered to successful applicants in the envelope by first class mail through and by the United States Postal Service. Licenses shall be placed with the United States Postal Service no later than the second Monday in September, except for licenses issued under § 143.51(f) (relating to application and issuance of unsold tags) which shall be placed with the United States Postal Service no later than the fourth Monday in September. If more than one application is mailed to the county treasurer in the same envelope, the licenses shall be mailed to the person whose name appears on the return section of the envelope. The person receiving the additional licenses is responsible for delivering them to the appropriate people.]~~

~~[§ 143.50. Procedure for nonresidents of this Commonwealth.~~

~~Nonresidents may apply for unsold licenses on the third Monday in July and thereafter in compliance with § 143.45 (relating to completing and submitting applications).]~~

~~[§ 143.51. Application and issuance of unsold tags.~~

~~(a) — Except as provided in § 143.52 (relating to procedures for unlimited antlerless licenses), beginning on the first Monday in August, residents and nonresidents of this Commonwealth are eligible to receive an unsold tag.]~~

~~(b) — The original PALS form issued with a regular hunting license or the original or reasonable facsimile of the universal form contained in the “Hunting and Trapping Digest” that is used in applying for an antlerless license or an unsold tag.~~

~~(c) — The applicant shall use the official antlerless deer license application envelope.~~

~~(d) — Unless otherwise ordered by the Director, remittance in the form of a negotiable check or money order for the total amount due as specified in the act, payable to “County Treasurer,” shall accompany the application.~~

~~(e) — Unsold tags shall be issued through the Commission's PALS. The county treasurer shall write in ink the applicants customer ID numbers on the face of the check or money order. If there are no licenses available in the applicant's first unit of preference, the county treasurer shall issue a license for the applicant's next unit of preference in the order given. If all~~

~~three units have no licenses available, the county treasurer shall return the application to the applicant indicating that the selected units were sold out.~~

~~(f) — Beginning on the third Monday in August, residents and nonresidents of this Commonwealth are eligible to apply for one additional unsold tag by mailing to a county treasurer.]~~

~~[§ 143.52. Procedure for unlimited antlerless licenses.~~

~~(a) — Subject to the procedures and limitations of this section, applicants are eligible to make application to receive an unlimited number of antlerless licenses within each wildlife management unit that remains unexhausted beginning on the second Monday in September.~~

~~(b) — Unexhausted antlerless licenses allocated to a wildlife management unit shall be made available to eligible applicants over the counter starting the second Monday in September], subject to the following limitations:~~

~~(1) — An applicant is eligible to make application for an antlerless license under this section only when the Commission's PALS licensing system shows five or less active and unfulfilled antlerless licenses on their license profile.~~

~~(2) — Once an applicant has been issued a sixth cumulative antlerless license, the applicant will not be eligible to make reapplication for additional antlerless licenses until one or more previously issued antlerless licenses have been exhausted by harvest and the harvest or harvests have resulted in a verified completed harvest report in PALS.~~

~~(3) — At no time is an applicant authorized to exceed six cumulative active and unfulfilled antlerless licenses in their PALS license profile.~~

~~(c) — The authorizations of this section will terminate automatically for each wildlife management unit once its antlerless license allocation quota is exhausted.]~~

~~[§ 143.53. Reapplication.~~

~~(a) — A person whose application has been rejected and returned may secure a new official envelope from a hunting license issuing agent and reapply for a license by:~~

~~(1) — If applicable, correcting the errors which caused the original application to be rejected and returning it to a county treasurer.~~

~~(2) — Changing on the application the designated wildlife management units in which the applicant desires to hunt and forwarding it to a county treasurer.~~

~~(b) — A person who was issued a license that was subsequently lost in the United States mail and never received by the licensee may, upon submitting an affidavit stating this fact,~~

~~receive a replacement license from any county treasurer. There will be no additional cost for this license. Prior to issuing a replacement license, county treasurers shall first verify through the Commission's PALS that the applicant was issued the original license.]~~

~~[§ 143.54. Validity of license.~~

~~An antlerless deer license is valid for taking antlerless deer only in the wildlife management unit designated on the antlerless deer license.]~~

~~[§ 143.55. Unlawful acts.~~

~~It is unlawful:~~

~~(1) — For a county treasurer to accept an application or to issue a license contrary to the act or this part.~~

~~(2) — For a person to apply for or to receive a license contrary to the act or this part.~~

~~(3) — For a person to aid another person in applying for or receiving a license contrary to this subchapter.~~

~~(4) — For a person to transfer or reissue a license or back tag, or to issue a void.~~

~~(5) — For a person to apply for or receive more than one antlerless license or more than one unsold tag, except as specified in §§ 143.51(f), 143.52 and 143.53 (relating to application and issuance of unsold tags; procedure for unlimited antlerless licenses; and reapplication).]~~

~~[§ 143.56. Penalties.~~

~~(a) — A person violating this chapter shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay the fine prescribed in the act.~~

~~(b) — Hunting antlerless deer or killing an antlerless deer with an invalid license constitutes hunting or killing deer without a license.]~~

Action:

B. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 139.17.

Commentary:

A uniform system of wildlife management units (WMUs) was implemented in 2003 to replace the system of multiple, species-specific management units. The primary objective of this new wildlife management unit system was to develop and implement wildlife management decisions on a system of more homogenous units based on physiography, land cover and use, human population density and land ownership. Wildlife management unit boundaries were defined using readily recognizable features on the landscape rather than hard to identify political boundaries. WMUs have undergone periodic reviews and evaluations. Following a recent evaluation of WMU 2H, which was separated out of the footprint of WMU 2G in 2013, it was determined that WMU 2H is too small to effectively collect adequate wildlife and hunter data for big games species. Furthermore, WMU 2H remains similar to WMU 2G in deer harvests and forest habitat measures. As a result, the Commission is proposing to amend § 139.17 (relating to wildlife management units) to eliminate WMU 2H and return WMU 2G to its original boundary. The proposed change to the WMU boundary line is shown on the attached map.

CHAPTER 139. SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

§ 139.17. Wildlife management units.

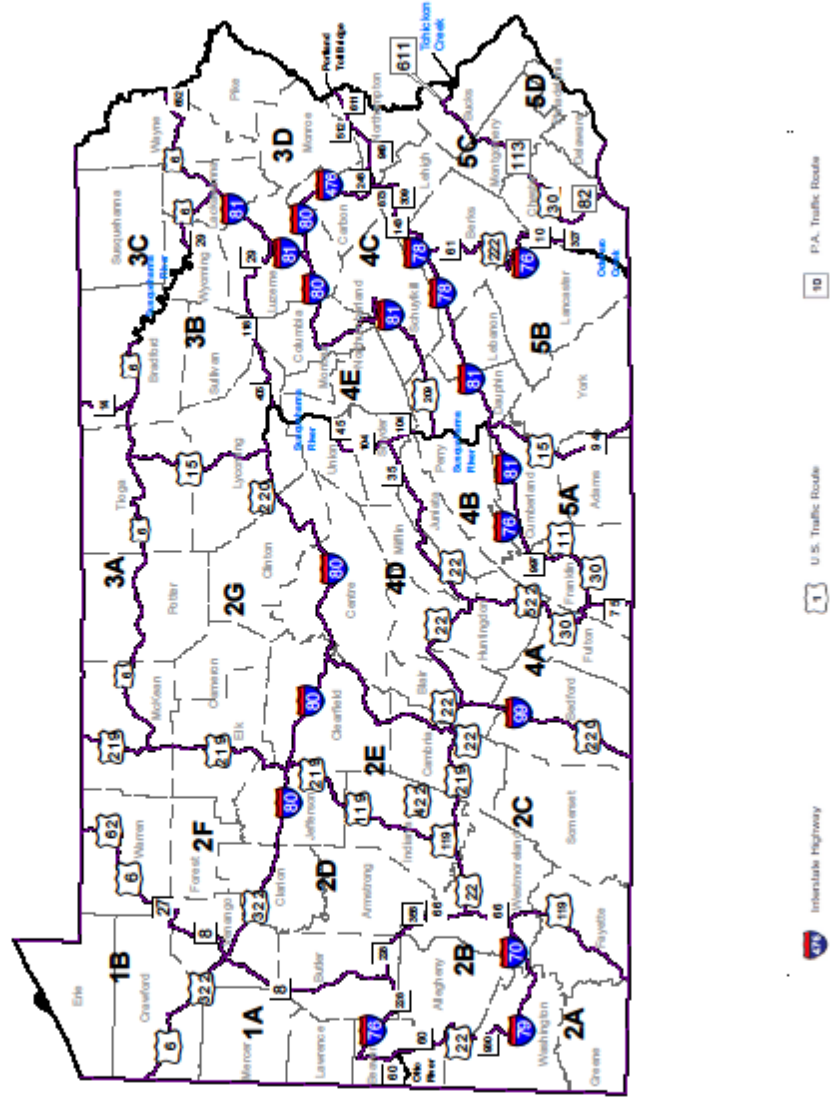
* * * * *

- (b) The outline map of Pennsylvania sets forth wildlife management units.

(See map of Pennsylvania Wildlife Management Units)

Action:

Wildlife Management Units



C. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 139.4.

Commentary:

To effectively manage the wildlife resources and provide hunting and trapping opportunities in this Commonwealth during the upcoming license year, the Commission is proposing to amend § 139.4 (relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year) to provide updated seasons and bag limits for the 2023-2024 license year. The 2023-2024 seasons and bag limits have been amended to reflect current available scientific data, population and harvest records, field surveys and professional staff observations, as well as recommendations received from staff, organized sporting groups, members of the agricultural community and others interested in the management of the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth.

For small game, a significant expansion of opportunity for put-and-take hunting of captive-reared bobwhite quail in most of Pennsylvania is proposed via an earlier season opening date, later season closing date, and removal of the daily bag limit. Also, adjustments to crow season dates and addition of Thursdays as hunting days are proposed to shift hunting opportunity from the peak breeding season to the fall and winter months.

For black bear, WMUs 1B and 2C are proposed to be removed from the extended firearms black bear season because of declining nuisance complaints in these units.

For furbearers, WMUs 3B and 4E are proposed to be opened to river otter trapping because habitat and population data indicate that these units can support sustainable otter harvest. Also, several furbearers are proposed for addition to the list of species that are legal for falconry harvest.

For elk, the proposed archery season is a week later than in 2022-23 to provide additional time between the license drawing and the beginning of the season.

For falconry, an expansion of falconry opportunities, to include the period of overlap with the regular firearms deer season, is proposed for those species for which falconry is a legal means of take. This expansion fully implements the intended effect of recent amendments to § 141.4 (relating to hunting hours) made by the Commission at its July 9, 2022 meeting.

No substantive changes are proposed for white-tailed deer or wild turkey seasons, although the 2024 youth and regular spring turkey seasons are proposed to open 5 days later than in 2023. This is a normal fluctuation that occurs every several years for consistency with the wild turkey management plan guideline of opening the regular season the Saturday closest to May 1.

Action:

ANNEX "A"

§ 139.4 Seasons and bag limits for the license year.

2023-2024 OPEN HUNTING AND FUR TAKING SEASONS, DAILY LIMIT,
FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT AND SEASON LIMIT
OPEN SEASON INCLUDES FIRST AND LAST DATES LISTED

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
<i>Squirrel</i> – (Combined species) ¹ Eligible Junior Hunters only, with or without the required junior license	Sept. 9	Sept. 23	6	18
<i>Squirrel</i> – (Combined species) ²	Sept. 9 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 12 and Nov. 13 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 19 and Nov. 20 and Dec. 11 and Dec. 26	Nov. 11 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 12 and Nov. 18 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 19 and Nov. 24 and Dec. 23 and Feb. 29, 2024	6	18
<i>Ruffed Grouse</i> ²	Oct. 14 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 12 and Nov. 13 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 19 and Nov. 20 and Dec. 11	Nov. 11 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 12 and Nov. 18 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 19 and Nov. 24 and Dec. 23	2	6
<i>Rabbit, Cottontail</i> ¹ Eligible Junior Hunters only, with or without the required junior license	Sept. 30	Oct. 14	4	12
<i>Rabbit, Cottontail</i> ²	Oct. 14 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 12 and Nov. 13 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 19 and Nov. 20 and Dec. 11 and Dec. 26	Nov. 11 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 12 and Nov. 18 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 19 and Nov. 24 and Dec. 23 and Feb. 29, 2024	4	12

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant</i> – There is no open season for the taking of pheasants in the Franklin County Wild Pheasant Recovery Area.				
Central Susquehanna Wild Pheasant Recovery Area – <i>Male only</i> ¹	As authorized by the Executive Order			
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant – Male or Female</i> ¹ Eligible Junior Hunters only, with or without the required junior license	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	2	6
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant – Male or Female</i> ²	Oct. 21 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 12 and Nov. 13 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 19 and Nov. 20 and Dec. 11 and Dec. 26	Nov. 11 Sun. ³ , Nov. 12 Nov. 18 Sun. ³ , Nov. 19 Nov. 24 Dec. 23 Feb. 29, 2024	2	6
<i>Bobwhite Quail</i> – There is no open season for the taking of bobwhite quail in the area surrounding the Letterkenny Bobwhite Quail Focus Area, as designated in §141.30.				
<i>Bobwhite Quail</i> ²	Sept. 1 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 12 and Nov. 13 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 19 and Nov. 20 and Dec. 11 and Dec. 26	Nov. 11 Sun. ³ , Nov. 12 Nov. 18 Sun. ³ , Nov. 19 Nov. 24 Dec. 23 Mar. 30, 2024	Unlimited	
<i>Hare (Snowshoe Rabbits) or Varying Hare</i> ¹	Dec. 26	Jan. 1, 2024	1	3

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
<i>Woodchuck (Groundhog)</i> ²	July 1 and Sun. 3, Nov. 12 and Nov. 13 and Sun. 3, Nov. 19 and Nov. 20 and Dec. 11	Nov. 11 Sun. 3, Nov. 12 Nov. 18 Sun. 3, Nov. 19 Nov. 24 June 29, 2024	Unlimited	
<i>Crow</i> ³ (Hunting permitted on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday only)	Aug. 24	Mar. 24, 2024	Unlimited	
<i>Starling and English Sparrow</i> ³	No closed season, except season closed during the regular firearms deer season(s).		Unlimited	

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

Except as further restricted by this chapter, the seasons, bag limits, hunting hours and hunting regulations for migratory game birds shall conform to regulations adopted by the United States Secretary of the Interior under authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C.A. §§ 703-712) as published in the *Federal Register* on or about February 28 of each year.
Exceptions:

- (a) Hunting hours in § 141.4 (relating to hunting hours).
- (b) Nontoxic shot as approved by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is required for use statewide in hunting and taking of migratory waterfowl.
- (c) Hunting on Sunday not authorized.¹

WILD TURKEY

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
<i>Turkey, Fall - Male or Female</i> ¹			1	1
WMU 2B	Oct. 28 Nov. 22	and Nov. 24		
WMU 1A, 1B, 4A, 4B, 4D, and 4E	Oct. 28	Nov. 4		
WMUs 2A, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, and 4C	Oct. 28	Nov. 11		
WMU 2C, 2D, and 2E	Oct. 28 Nov. 22	and Nov. 24		
WMU 5B	Oct. 31	Nov. 2		
WMUs 5A, 5C, and 5D	Closed to fall turkey hunting			
<i>Turkey, Spring</i> ¹ Bearded Bird only, Eligible Junior Hunters only, with the required junior license	Apr. 27, 2024	Apr. 27, 2024	1	1
<i>Turkey, Spring</i> ^{1,4} Bearded Bird only	May 4, 2024 May 20, 2024	and May 31, 2024	1	2
			May be hunted ½ hour before sunrise to 12 noon	
			May be hunted ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	

FALCONRY

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
<i>Squirrel</i> – (Combined species) ²	Sept. 1	Nov. 11	6	18
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 12	Sun. 3, Nov. 12		
	and Nov. 13	Nov. 18		
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 19	Sun. 3, Nov. 19		
	and Nov. 20	Nov. 25		
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 26	Sun. 3, Nov. 26		
	and Nov. 27	Mar. 30, 2024		
<i>Quail</i> ²	Sept. 1	Nov. 11	Unlimited	
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 12	Sun. 3, Nov. 12		
	and Nov. 13	Nov. 18		
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 19	Sun. 3, Nov. 19		
	and Nov. 20	Nov. 25		
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 26	Sun. 3, Nov. 26		
	and Nov. 27	Mar. 30, 2024		
<i>Ruffed Grouse</i> ²	Sept. 1	Nov. 11	2	6
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 12	Sun. 3, Nov. 12		
	and Nov. 13	Nov. 18		
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 19	Sun. 3, Nov. 19		
	and Nov. 20	Nov. 25		
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 26	Sun. 3, Nov. 26		
	and Nov. 27	Mar. 30, 2024		
<i>Cottontail Rabbits</i> ²	Sept. 1	Nov. 11	4	12
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 12	Sun. 3, Nov. 12		
	and Nov. 13	Nov. 18		
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 19	Sun. 3, Nov. 19		
	and Nov. 20	Nov. 25		
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 26	Sun. 3, Nov. 26		
	and Nov. 27	Mar. 30, 2024		

FALCONRY – (Continued)

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
<i>Snowshoe or Varying Hare</i> ²	Sept. 1	Nov. 11	1	3
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 12	Sun. 3, Nov. 12		
	and Nov. 13	Nov. 18		
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 19	Sun. 3, Nov. 19		
	and Nov. 20	Nov. 25		
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 26	Sun. 3, Nov. 26		
	and Nov. 27	Mar. 30, 2024		
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant - Male and Female</i> (Combined) ²	Sept. 1	Nov. 11	2	6
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 12	Sun. 3, Nov. 12		
	and Nov. 13	Nov. 18		
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 19	Sun. 3, Nov. 19		
	and Nov. 20	Nov. 25		
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 26	Sun. 3, Nov. 26		
	and Nov. 27	Mar. 30, 2024		
<i>Mink, Muskrat, Fox, Opossum, Raccoon, Striped Skunk, and Weasel</i> ²	Sept. 1	Nov. 11	Unlimited	
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 12	Sun. 3, Nov. 12		
	and Nov. 13	Nov. 18		
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 19	Sun. 3, Nov. 19		
	and Nov. 20	Nov. 25		
	and Sun. 3, Nov. 26	Sun. 3, Nov. 26		
	and Nov. 27	Mar. 30, 2024		

*Migratory Game Bird*¹ - Seasons and bag limits shall be in accordance with Federal regulations.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
Deer, Archery (Antlered & Antlerless) ^{2,5} With the required archery license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Sept. 16	Nov. 11	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 12	Sun. ³ , Nov. 12	
	and Nov. 13	Nov. 18	
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 19	Sun. ³ , Nov. 19	
	and Nov. 20	Nov. 24	
	and Dec. 26	Jan. 27, 2024	
Deer, Archery (Antlered & Antlerless) ^{2,5} With the required archery license WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B	Sept. 30	Nov. 11	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 12	Sun. ³ , Nov. 12	
	and Nov. 13	Nov. 17	
	and Dec. 26	Jan. 15, 2024	
Deer, Muzzleloading (Antlerless only) ¹ With the required muzzleloading license	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Special firearms (Antlerless only) Only Junior and Senior License Holders ⁶ , Commission Disabled Person Permit Holders (to use a vehicle as a blind), and Residents serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces or U.S. Coast Guard	Oct. 19	Oct. 21	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Regular Firearms (Antlered & Antlerless) ^{2,5} Statewide	Nov. 25	Nov. 25	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 26	Sun. ³ , Nov. 26	
	and Nov. 27	Dec. 9	
Deer, Flintlock (Antlered or Antlerless) ^{1,5} With the required muzzleloading license WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B	Dec. 26	Jan. 15, 2024	One antlered or one antlerless deer, plus an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Flintlock (Antlered or Antlerless) ^{1,5} With the required muzzleloading license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Dec. 26	Jan. 27, 2024	One antlered or one antlerless deer, plus an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

WHITE-TAILED DEER – (Continued)

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
Deer, Extended Regular firearms (Antlerless) ¹ WMUs 2B, 5C, and 5D	Dec. 26	Jan. 27, 2024	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Antlerless ¹ (Letterkenny Army Depot, Franklin County and New Cumberland Army Depot, York County and Fort Detrick, Raven Rock Site, Adams County)	Hunting is permitted on days established by the United States Department of the Army.		An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

BLACK BEAR

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
Bear, Archery ^{2,7} WMUs 2B, 5C, and 5D	Sept. 16 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 12 and Nov. 13 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 19 and Nov. 20	Nov. 11 Sun. ³ , Nov. 12 Nov. 18 Sun. ³ , Nov. 19 Nov. 24	1
Bear, Archery ^{2,7} WMU 5B	Sept. 30 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 12 and Nov. 13	Nov. 11 Sun. ³ , Nov. 12 Nov. 17	1
Bear, Archery ^{1,7} WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 5A	Oct. 14	Nov. 4	1
Bear, Muzzleloader ^{1,7} (Statewide)	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	1
Bear, Special firearms ⁷ Only Junior and Senior License Holders ⁶ , Commission Disabled Person Permit Holders (to use a vehicle as a blind), and Residents serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, or in the U.S. Coast Guard (Statewide)	Oct. 19	Oct. 21	1

BLACK BEAR – (Continued)

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
<i>Bear, Regular Firearms</i> ^{2,7} (Statewide)	Nov. 18 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 19 and Nov. 20	Nov. 18 Sun. ³ , Nov. 19 Nov. 21	1
<i>Bear, Extended firearms</i> ^{2,7} WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C, and 5D	Nov. 25 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 26 and Nov. 27	Nov. 25 Sun. ³ , Nov. 26 Dec. 9	1
<i>Bear, Extended firearms</i> ^{2,7} WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 5A	Nov. 25 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 26 and Nov. 27	Nov. 25 Sun. ³ , Nov. 26 Dec. 2	1

ELK

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
<i>Elk, Special Conservation Tag</i> ^{1,8} <i>and Special-License Tag</i> ^{1,8} (Antlered and Antlerless)	Sept. 1	Nov. 4	1
<i>Elk, Archery</i> ^{1,8}	Sept. 16	Sept. 30	1
<i>Elk, Regular</i> ^{1,8} (Antlered and Antlerless)	Oct. 30	Nov. 4	1
<i>Elk, Late</i> ^{1,8}	Dec. 30	Jan. 6, 2024	1

FUR TAKING – TRAPPING

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
<i>Mink and Muskrat</i>	Nov. 18	Jan. 7, 2024		Unlimited
<i>Beaver</i>	Dec. 16	Mar. 31, 2024		
WMUs 1A and 1B (Combined)			20	60
WMUs 2A, 2B and 3C (Combined)			20	40
WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 3A, 3B, 3D, 5C and 5D (Combined)			20	20
WMUs 2G, 2H, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B (Combined)			5	5

FUR TAKING – TRAPPING – (Continued)

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
<i>Coyote, Fox, Opossum, Raccoon, Striped Skunk and Weasel</i>	Oct. 21	Feb. 18, 2024	Unlimited
<i>Coyote and Fox</i> Use of cable restraint devices authorized with required certification	Dec. 26	Feb. 18, 2024	Unlimited
<i>Bobcat, with required bobcat permit</i> WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Dec. 16	Jan. 7, 2024	1
<i>Fisher, with required fisher permit</i> WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Dec. 16	Dec. 31	1
<i>River Otter, with required otter permit</i> WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3B, 3C, 3D and 4E	Feb. 10, 2024	Feb. 17, 2024	1

FUR TAKING - HUNTING

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
<i>Coyote - (Outside of any big game season)</i> ³	May be taken with a hunting license or a furtaker's license.		Unlimited	
<i>Coyote - (During any big game season)</i>	May be taken while lawfully hunting big game or with a furtaker's license.		Unlimited	
<i>Opossum, Striped Skunk, Weasel</i> ²	July 1	Nov. 11	Unlimited	
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 12	Sun. ³ , Nov. 12		May be hunted any hour, day or night, on open dates from July 1 – Nov. 24 and Dec. 10- June 29, 2024. May only be hunted from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise from Nov. 25 – Dec. 9.
	and Nov. 13	Nov. 18		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 19	Sun. ³ , Nov. 19		
	and Nov. 20	Nov. 25		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 26	Sun. ³ , Nov. 26		
	and Nov. 27	June 29, 2024		
<i>Fox</i> ³	Oct. 21	Feb. 17, 2024	Unlimited	May be hunted any hour, day or night, from Oct. 21 – Nov. 24 and Dec. 10 – Feb. 17, 2024. May only be hunted from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise from Nov. 25 – Dec. 9.

FUR TAKING – HUNTING (continued)

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
Raccoon ²	Oct. 21	Nov. 11		Unlimited
	and			
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 12	Sun. ³ , Nov. 12		May be hunted any hour, day or night, on open dates from Oct. 21 – Nov. 24 and Dec. 10 - Feb. 17, 2024. May only be hunted from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise from Nov. 25 – Dec. 9.
	and			
	Nov. 13	Nov. 18		
	and			
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 19	Sun. ³ , Nov. 19		
and				
Nov. 20	Nov. 25			
and				
Sun. ³ , Nov. 26	Sun. ³ , Nov. 26			
and				
Nov. 27	Feb. 17, 2024			
Bobcat, with required bobcat permit ¹ WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Jan. 6, 2024	Jan. 31, 2024	1	1
Porcupine ²	Oct. 7	Nov. 11	3	10
	and			
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 12	Sun. ³ , Nov. 12		
	and			
	Nov. 13	Nov. 18		
	and			
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 19	Sun. ³ , Nov. 19		
and				
Nov. 20	Nov. 24			
and				
Dec. 11	Dec. 23			
and				
Dec. 26	Jan. 27, 2024			

No open seasons on other wild birds or wild mammals.

¹ No hunting on Sunday authorized. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303.

² Hunting on Sunday authorized on separately delineated Sunday date(s) only. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303.

³ Hunting on Sunday is authorized. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303.

⁴ Only persons who possess a special wild turkey license as provided for in section 2709 of the act (relating to license costs and fees) may take a second spring gobbler during the hunting license year; all other persons, including mentored youth hunters, may take only one spring gobbler. A maximum of 2 spring gobblers per license year may be taken by any combination of licenses or exceptions for mentored youth.

⁵ Only one antlered deer (buck) may be taken during the hunting license year.

⁶ Includes resident and nonresident license holders who have reached or will reach their 65th birthday in the year of the application for the license and hold a valid adult license or qualify for license and fee exemptions under section 2706 of the act (relating to resident license and fee exemptions).

⁷ Only one bear may be taken during the hunting license year with the required bear license.

⁸ Only one elk may be taken during the hunting license year with the required elk license.

D. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 133.21.

Commentary:

The Commission is proposing to amend § 133.21 (relating to classification of birds) to update the scientific names of the Yellow-crowned Night-heron, Sedge Wren, and Northern Harrier on the Commonwealth’s lists of threatened and endangered birds with current accepted taxonomic nomenclature. The scientific name for the Yellow-crowned Night-heron was changed from *Nycticorax violaceus* to *Nyctanassa violacea* as part of a splitting of genera published in the 37th Supplement to the American Ornithologists’ Union Checklist of North American Birds. The Sedge Wren was split from Grass Wren, a non-migratory Mexican and South American population that retained the *Cistothorus platensis* scientific name. The new scientific name for the Sedge Wren migratory population and Pennsylvania endangered breeding species is now *Cistothorus stellaris*. The Northern Harrier has been split from its old world relative the Hen Harrier. The Hen Harrier retained the original scientific name (*Circus cyaneus*) as the older described species, and the Northern Harrier received the new scientific name (*Circus hudsonius*). These changes do not affect the protection, management, or common names of these species, but will keep Pennsylvania’s lists consistent with current accepted taxonomic nomenclature.

CHAPTER 133. WILDLIFE CLASSIFICATION

Subchapter B. BIRDS

§ 133.21. Classification of birds.

The following birds are classified:

- (1) Endangered.

* * * * *

- (viii) Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

- (ix) Yellow-crowned Night-heron (~~[*Nycticorax violaceus*]~~ *Nyctanassa violacea*)

- (x) Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

* * * * *

- (xiii) Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*)

- (xiv) Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus* [~~*platensis*~~] *stellaris*)

(xv) Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*)

* * * * *

(2) Threatened.

(i) Northern Harrier (*Circus [~~cyaneus]~~ hudsonius*)

(ii) Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)

* * * * *

Action:

E. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 137.35.

Commentary:

Current Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) regulations restrict movement of high-risk cervid parts from being imported or removed from any Disease Management or Established Area (DMA or EA) created within this Commonwealth. These restrictions directly impact and limit where successful hunters can take cervids for processing and taxidermy. In an effort to provide hunters with more options, the Commission established “cooperating processors and taxidermists” (hereafter, cooperators) who were authorized to receive high-risk cervid parts at their facilities. These cooperators were approved based upon their compliance with proper disposal requirements for high-risk cervid parts to help limit human-assisted spread of CWD. Currently, cooperators are specific to a current DMA and do not allow access to cooperators associated with other DMAs, regardless of proximity. The Commission has determined that limiting public access to DMA specific cooperators adds unnecessary complexity and confusion for cooperators and hunters alike.

In an effort to simplify CWD regulations and enhance protections against human-assisted spread of CWD, the Commission is proposing to amend § 135.37 (relating to Chronic Wasting Disease restrictions) to: 1) authorize a statewide CWD cooperator program; 2) authorize any statewide cooperator the ability to accept high-risk cervid parts imported into Pennsylvania from other states, Canadian provinces or other locations or exported from a DMA; and 3) prohibit the placement of high-risk cervid parts on the landscape anywhere within the Commonwealth that are derived from any cervid harvested, taken or killed outside of this Commonwealth or within any Disease Management or Established Area. This new structure will allow hunters to use any cooperating processor or taxidermist within the Commonwealth rather than limiting hunters to cooperators associated only with a particular DMA. This new structure will also allow for a limited or controlled authorization for hunters to import high-risk cervid parts into this Commonwealth.

CHAPTER 137. WILDLIFE

§ 137.35. Chronic Wasting Disease restrictions.

(a) Importation.

(1) General rule. It is unlawful to import any high-risk parts or materials from cervids harvested, taken or killed outside of this Commonwealth.

(2) Exceptions:

(i) This subsection may not be construed to limit the importation of non-high-risk parts or materials from cervids harvested, taken or killed outside of this Commonwealth.

(ii) This subsection may not be construed to limit the importation of high-risk parts or materials from cervids harvested, taken or killed outside of this Commonwealth if the parts or materials are transported directly to any location or facility designated and approved in advance by the Commission to receive high-risk cervid parts for waste disposal, taxidermy, or butchering purposes. Locations or facilities designated and approved to receive high-risk cervid parts for waste disposal, taxidermy, or butchering purposes will be made known through public announcement, web site and other means reasonably intended to reach the widest audience.

(A) Application. Any location or facility seeking approval to receive high-risk cervid parts for waste disposal, taxidermy, or butchering purposes shall submit a completed application on a form and in the manner established by the Commission. Applications must include the applicant's name, business address, phone number, name of current commercial refuse pickup service or other approved disposal method, and any other information required by the Commission.

(B) Approved locations and facilities. Any location or facility approved by the Commission to receive high-risk cervid parts for waste disposal, taxidermy, or butchering purposes shall dispose of all high-risk cervid parts through a commercial refuse pickup service or other method approved by the Commission. An approved location or facility shall keep and maintain records of their use of an approved disposal method and provide access to these records upon request of Commission. An approved location facility shall also provide the Commission access to their location or facility during normal business hours to collect biological data and samples from harvested cervids.

(b) Exportation.

(1) General rule. It is unlawful to remove or export any high-risk parts or materials from cervids harvested, taken or killed, including by vehicular accident, within any Disease Management or Established Area established within this Commonwealth.

(2) Exceptions:

(i) This subsection may not be construed to limit the removal or exportation of non-high-risk parts or materials from cervids harvested, taken or killed within any Disease Management or Established Area established within this Commonwealth.

~~(3)~~ (ii) This subsection may not be construed to limit the removal or exportation of high-risk parts or materials from cervids harvested, taken or killed in any Disease Management or Established Area established within this Commonwealth if the parts or materials are transported directly to any location or facility designated and approved in advance by the Commission to receive high-risk cervid parts for waste disposal, taxidermy, butchering ~~[purposes]~~, or harvest reporting purposes. Locations or facilities designated and approved to receive high-risk cervid parts for waste disposal, taxidermy, butchering ~~[purposes]~~, or harvest reporting purposes

will be made known through public announcement, web site and other means reasonably intended to reach the widest audience.

(A) Application. Any location or facility seeking approval to receive high-risk cervid parts for waste disposal, taxidermy, butchering, or harvest reporting purposes shall submit a completed application on a form and in the manner established by the Commission. Applications must include the applicant's name, business address, phone number, name of current commercial refuse pickup service or other approved disposal method, and any other information required by the Commission.

(B) Approved locations and facilities. Any location or facility approved by the Commission to receive high-risk cervid parts for waste disposal, taxidermy, butchering, or harvest reporting purposes shall dispose of high-risk cervid parts only through a commercial refuse pickup service or other method approved by the Commission. An approved location or facility shall keep and maintain records of their use of an approved disposal method and provide access to these records upon request of Commission. An approved location facility shall also provide the Commission access to their location or facility during normal business hours to collect biological data and samples from harvested cervids.

~~[(4)]~~ (3) All cervids harvested, taken or killed within any Disease Management or Established Area established within this Commonwealth or imported into this Commonwealth are subject to disease testing. This testing may require hunters to present cervids, or cervid parts, for checking and sampling at prescribed locations under conditions in a forthcoming notice. The submission process, if any, will be made known through public announcement, web site and other means reasonably intended to reach the widest audience. The cost of testing, sampling and analysis will be borne by the Commission.

~~[(5)]~~ (4) It is unlawful to rehabilitate wild, free-ranging cervids within any Disease Management or Established Area established within this Commonwealth.

~~[(6)]~~ (5) It is unlawful to use or possess cervid urine-based attractants in any outdoor setting within any Disease Management or Established Area established within this Commonwealth.

~~[(7)]~~ (6) It is unlawful to directly or indirectly feed wild, free-ranging cervids within any Disease Management or Established Area established within this Commonwealth. This prohibition may not be construed to apply to normal or accepted agricultural, habitat management, oil and gas drilling, mining, forest management, or other legitimate commercial or industrial practices. If otherwise lawful feeding is attracting cervids, the Commission may provide written notice prohibiting this activity. Failure to discontinue this activity is a violation of this section.

~~[(8)]~~ (7) The Commission will not issue any new permit to possess or transport live cervids within any Disease Management or Established Area established within this Commonwealth.

(8) It is unlawful to transport or move a cervid harvested, taken or killed outside of this Commonwealth or within any Disease Management or Established Area from the

location of harvest or kill and thereafter place or dispose of any high-risk cervid parts on the landscape anywhere within the Commonwealth. All high-risk cervid parts shall be disposed of only through a commercial refuse pickup service or other method approved by the Commission.

* * * * *

(f) *Violations.* A person violating a requirement or restriction in this section may be prosecuted under section 2102 or 2307 of the act (relating to regulations; and unlawful taking or possession of game or wildlife) and, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay the fine prescribed in the act. The Commission may deny, revoke or suspend a location or facility's authorization to receive high-risk cervid parts for waste disposal, taxidermy, butchering, or harvest reporting purposes from any cervid harvested, taken or killed outside of this Commonwealth or within any Disease Management or Established Area.

Action:

ADOPTED RULE MAKING

F. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 147.701.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Commission at its September 24, 2022, meeting amends §147.701 (relating to general) to create a universal reporting period of 48 hours for bobcat, fisher and otter harvests. The amendments to § 147.701 will not take effect until the 2023/2024 license year. For the 2022/2023 license year, otter reporting will be taken by HuntFishPA, the same method used for reporting bobcat and fisher harvests and CITES tags will be mailed in a similar manner to bobcat CITES tags.

Action:

ANNEX “A”

CHAPTER 147. SPECIAL PERMITS

Subchapter S. FURBEARER HUNTING-TRAPPING PERMITS

§ 147.701. General.

This section provides for permits to be issued for the hunting and trapping of bobcat and the trapping of otter and fisher during the seasons established and in areas designated under § 139.4 (relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year).

* * * * *

(4) Tagging requirements are as follows:

(i) A permitted person taking a bobcat, fisher or otter shall immediately, before removing the animal from the location of the taking, fully complete and attach to the animal a carcass tag furnished with the permit. The carcass tag must remain attached to the animal until a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) tag is attached, if applicable, or the animal is mounted, tanned, made into a commercial fur or prepared for consumption.

(ii) A permitted person taking a bobcat, fisher or otter shall report the harvest to the Commission within 48 hours of the taking by a means specified by the Director.

(iii) A CITES tag for a bobcat or otter taken under this permit will be provided by the Commission in the event that the bobcat, otter or any parts thereof are exported internationally or upon request of the permittee. The CITES tag shall immediately be locked through the eyes of the pelt or, in the event of any other part, locked through and attached to the part. The CITES tag must remain attached to the animal until it is mounted, tanned, made into a commercial fur or prepared for consumption.

* * * * *

G. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 141.6.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Commission at its September 24, 2022, meeting amends, § 141.6 (relating to illegal devices) to allow the use of body gripping traps with a spread larger than 6 ½" x 6 ½" for river otters.

Action:

ANNEX "A"

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter A. GENERAL

§ 141.6. Illegal devices.

It is unlawful to:

* * * * *

(2) Use snares to take wildlife or furbearers except beavers may be taken with snares completely or partially submerged in water in a waterway or watercourse, marsh, pond or dam.

(3) Use body gripping traps with a spread larger than 6 1/2" x 6 1/2" for any furbearer, except beaver and otter.

(4) Use a cage or box trap capable of catching more than one furbearer at a time.

Action:

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION

PROPOSED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 147.282

Commentary: A menagerie has approached the Commission to request that its safety regulations concerning public exposure with certain wildlife be relaxed. The Commission has reviewed the applicable regulations and determined that changes can be made to the regulation without exposing the public to unnecessary danger or harm. A menagerie is defined as “[a]ny place where one or more wild birds or wild animals, or one or more birds or animals which have similar characteristics and appearance to birds or animals wild by nature, are kept in captivity for the evident purpose of exhibition with or without charge.” The Commission is proposing to amend § 147.282 (relating to safety) to classify wildlife into categories that match an associated level of exposure and public contact appropriate for that category of wildlife. These changes will authorize menageries to remove additional species of wildlife from caging and directly expose them to the public, including wallabies, nonhuman primates, and all other wildlife outside of the families Ursidae, Felidae, and Canidae.

CHAPTER 147. SPECIAL PERMITS

Subchapter O. MENAGERIES

§ 147.282. Safety.

(a) Cage construction shall be sufficiently strong to contain the wildlife and to protect the animal from injury from other specimens on exhibit. Caging determined unsafe by Commission personnel shall be reconstructed as directed. Reconstruction shall be completed and approved within 30 days after official notification from the Commission.

(b) Except as provided in ~~[subsections (c) and (d)]~~ subsection (c), wildlife may not be removed from cages or directly exposed to the public. Safety barriers shall be present to adequately prevent the wildlife from touching, grasping or biting visitors. Barriers, such as walls, fences, moats, retaining rails and other necessary devices shall be present to prevent the public from approaching ~~the~~ cages, pens, enclosures or areas near enough to contact the wildlife.

(c) ~~[Public human contact with the following designated animals is permitted under the specified conditions]~~ Removal of wildlife from cages and public human contact with the following categories of wildlife is authorized only as specified below:

(1) Category 1 wildlife. Ruminant animals may be moved from cages or confinement and directly exposed to the public, specifically to include public human contact, without restriction.

(2) ~~[Organ grinder monkeys, trained performing chimpanzees and elephants]~~ Category 2 wildlife. All other wildlife not defined as Category 3 wildlife in paragraph (3), may be removed from cages or confinement and directly exposed to the public, specifically to include public human contact, only if the wildlife is under the immediate control of the handler to preclude danger to the public.

(3) Category 3 wildlife. Members of the families Ursidae, Felidae, and Canidae may not be removed from cages or confinement or directly exposed to the public. No public human contact is authorized for this wildlife.

~~[(d) — Wildlife other than members of the families Ursidae, Felidae and wild Canidae when exhibited on a stage or in an arena, may be removed from their cage by the exhibitor in a manner precluding danger to the public. Other human contact with the wildlife is prohibited.]~~

Action:

B. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 141.4.

Commentary: The Commission is proposing to amend § 141.4 to replace the current hunting hours table and migratory bird hunting hours table to accurately reflect the dates and hours of legal hunting for the 2023-2024 hunting/trapping license year.

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Appendix G. Hunting Hours

§ 141.4. Hunting hours.

Except as otherwise provided, wild birds and mammals may be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

* * * * *

*(See Pennsylvania Meridian Map, Hunting Hours and
Migratory Game Bird Hunting Hours Tables)*

ANNEX “A”

**HUNTING HOURS TABLE
FOR JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024**

Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.	Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.
July 1	5:05	9:03	Dec. 31 – Jan. 6	6:53	5:16
July 2 – 8	5:09	9:02	Jan. 7 – 13	6:53	5:21
July 9 – 15	5:14	8:59	Jan. 14 – 20	6:51	5:28
July 16 – 22	5:20	8:54	Jan. 21 – 27	6:48	5:36
July 23 – 29	5:26	8:47	Jan.28 - Feb.3	6:43	5:44
July 30 – Aug. 5	5:33	8:40	Feb. 4 – 10	6:37	5:53
Aug. 6 - 12	5:39	8:31	Feb. 11 – 17	6:29	6:01
Aug. 13 – 19	5:46	8:21	Feb. 18 – 24	6:20	6:09
Aug. 20 – 26	5:53	8:11	Feb. 25 - March 2	6:10	6:18
Aug. 27 -Sept. 2	6:00	8:00	March 3 – 9	6:00	6:25
Sept. 3 – 9	6:06	7:49	March 10 - 16* Begins	6:49	7:33
Sept. 10 – 16	6:12	7:38	March 17 - 23	6:38	7:40
Sept. 17 – 23	6:19	7:26	March 24 - 30	6:27	7:47
Sept. 24 – Sept. 30	6:26	7:15	March 31 – Apr. 6	6:15	7:54
Oct. 1 – 7	6:33	7:04	April 7 – 13	6:04	8:02
Oct. 8 – 14	6:40	6:53	April 14 – 20	5:53	8:09
Oct. 15 – 21	6:47	6:43	April 21 – 27	5:43	8:16
Oct. 22 – 28	6:55	6:33	April 28 – May 4	5:35	8:23
Oct. 29 – Nov. 4	7:03	6:25	May 5 – 11	5:25	8:30
Nov. 5 – 11** Ends	6:11	5:18	May 12 – 18	5:18	8:37
Nov. 12 – 18	6:19	5:12	May 19 – 25	5:11	8:43
Nov. 19 – 25	6:27	5:08	May 26 – June 1	5:07	8:49
Nov. 26 - Dec. 2	6:34	5:06	June 2 – 8	5:03	8:54
Dec. 3 – 9	6:40	5:05	June 9 – 15	5:02	8:59
Dec. 10 – 16	6:46	5:06	June 16 – 22	5:02	9:02
Dec. 17 – 23	6:50	5:10	June 23 – June 30	5:05	9:03
Dec. 24 – 30	6:52	5:14	Daylight Saving Time Begins* - Ends**		

**MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING HOURS TABLE
FOR JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024**

Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.	Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.
July 1	5:05	8:33	Dec. 31 - Jan. 6	6:53	4:46
July 2 – 8	5:09	8:32	Jan. 7 – 13	6:53	4:51
July 9 – 15	5:14	8:29	Jan. 14 – 20	6:51	4:58
July 16 – 22	5:20	8:24	Jan. 21 – 27	6:48	5:06
July 23 – 29	5:27	8:16	Jan. 28 - Feb. 3	6:43	5:14
July 30 – Aug. 5	5:33	8:10	Feb. 4 – 10	6:37	5:23
Aug. 6 - 12	5:39	8:01	Feb. 11 – 17	6:29	5:31
Aug. 13 – 19	5:46	7:51	Feb. 18 – 24	6:20	5:39
Aug. 20 – 26	5:53	7:41	Feb. 25 - March 2	6:10	5:48
Aug. 27 -Sept. 2	6:00	7:30	March 3 – 9	6:00	5:55
Sept. 3 – 9	6:06	7:19	March 10 - 16* Begins	6:49	7:03
Sept. 10 – 16	6:12	7:08	March 17 - 23	6:38	7:10
Sept. 17 – 23	6:19	6:56	March 24 – 30	6:27	7:17
Sept. 24 – 30	6:26	6:45	March 31 – Apr. 6	6:15	7:24
Oct. 1 – 7	6:33	6:34	April 7 – 13	6:04	7:32
Oct. 8 – 14	6:40	6:23	April 14 – 20	5:53	7:39
Oct. 15 – 21	6:47	6:13	April 21 – 27	5:43	7:46
Oct. 22 – 28	6:55	6:03	April 28 – May 4	5:35	7:53
Oct. 29 – Nov. 4	7:03	5:55	May 5 – 11	5:25	8:00
Nov. 5 – 11 ** Ends	6:11	4:48	May 12 – 18	5:18	8:07
Nov. 12 – 18	6:19	4:42	May 19 – 25	5:11	8:13
Nov. 19 – 25	6:27	4:38	May 26 – June 1	5:07	8:19
Nov. 26 - Dec. 2	6:34	4:36	June 2 – 8	5:03	8:24
Dec. 3 – 9	6:40	4:35	June 9 – 15	5:02	8:29
Dec. 10 – 16	6:46	4:36	June 16 – 22	5:02	8:32
Dec. 17 – 23	6:50	4:40	June 23 – June 30	5:05	8:33
Dec. 24 – 30	6:52	4:44	Daylight Saving Time Begins* Ends**		

Action:

C. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 141.67.

Commentary: Members of the falconry community have recently requested an expansion of the hunting seasons for falconry to include certain mink, muskrat, fox, opossum, raccoon, striped skunk, and weasel. The Commission has reviewed this request and preliminarily included the addition of these species in the 2023-2024 seasons and bag limits proposal for consideration above. If approved, this falconry season/species expansion will require the addition of falcons to the list of lawful devices that may be used to harvest any furbearer having an open falconry season. A similar provision was added to § 141.22(a)(7) (relating to small game seasons) to accommodate this similar purpose. The Commission is proposing to amend § 141.67 (relating to furbearer seasons) to expand the list of devices that are permitted to be used to hunt and take furbearers having an open falconry season.

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter D. FURBEARERS

§ 141.67. Furbearer seasons.

(a) Permitted devices. It is lawful to hunt or take furbearers during any furtaking season with the following devices:

(1) A manually operated or semiautomatic rifle or manually operated handgun that propels single-projectile ammunition.

* * * * *

(11) A cage or box trap, except as prohibited under section 2361(a)(17) of the act.

(12) A raptor. The raptor shall be lawfully possessed under a falconry permit under section 2925 of the act (relating to falconry permits).

* * * * *

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

PROPOSED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code §§ 135.101-135.107.

Commentary:

The Commission's Middle Creek and Pymatuning Wildlife Management Areas are prime destinations for wildlife and people who care about wildlife and wild places. The Commission built these special wildlife management areas at a time when Canada geese were in less than desirable numbers within the Commonwealth, particularly in the east. But over time, the Middle Creek and Pymatuning Wildlife Management Areas have become so much more for myriad wildlife species and countless Pennsylvanians and tourists. The Commission has determined that the regulations governing the use and access to these special wildlife management areas are needlessly complex, redundant, outdated and simply inconsistent with current available technologies, particularly as it relates to management of the controlled hunts. The Commission is proposing to amend §§ 135.101-135.107 (relating to scope; controlled goose and controlled duck hunting areas; registration for controlled goose hunting areas; restrictions on controlled goose hunting areas; public hunting areas; Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area; and Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area) to simplify, reorganize, and modernize these special wildlife management area regulations.

CHAPTER 135. LANDS AND BUILDINGS

Subchapter F. SPECIAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

§ 135.101. [~~Scope~~] Designation of special wildlife management areas.

(a) [~~The Commission may create special wildlife management areas on lands, waters and buildings under its ownership, lease or jurisdiction. Specific parts of these areas may be referred to as controlled goose hunting areas, controlled duck hunting areas, propagation areas, public hunting areas, public recreation areas or a designation consistent with the use of lands, waters or buildings~~] Authority to designate special wildlife management areas. The Commission may designate any lands and waters it owns, leases or otherwise controls as a special wildlife management area. The Commission will mark any area designated as a special wildlife management area with conspicuous signage designating its boundaries.

(b) [~~In addition to §§ 135.2 and 135.41 (relating to unlawful actions; and State game lands) and 50 CFR Part 20 (relating to migratory bird hunting), this subchapter pertains to areas designated as special wildlife management areas~~] Authority to designate areas within special wildlife management areas. The Commission may designate any lands or waters within an established special wildlife management area as a public recreation area, propagation area, open public hunting or trapping area, controlled hunting or trapping area, or any other designation consistent with the intended use of the lands and waters. The Commission will mark any internally

designated area within a special wildlife management area with conspicuous signage designating its boundaries and stating the intended purpose of the area.

(c) ~~[Boundaries shall be conspicuously posted with signs designating the purpose of an area]~~ Designated special wildlife management areas. The following areas of this Commonwealth are designated as a special wildlife management area:

(1) Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area. The area otherwise known as State Game Land No. 46, that is located in Clay, Elizabeth and West Cocalico Townships, Lancaster County and Heidelberg Township, Lebanon County.

(2) Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area. The area otherwise known as State Game Land No. 214, that is located in North Shenango, Pine, Sadsbury and West Fallowfield Townships, Crawford County.

(d) ~~[The Director has the authority to open special wildlife management areas, or parts thereof to hunting or trapping for the purpose of population control when it is determined that uncontrolled numbers of certain species have become detrimental to the area.~~

(1) ~~— When a certain area is declared open to hunting or trapping by the Director, the number of hunters/trappers may be limited by a permit or drawing.~~

(2) ~~— The Director may declare the area open to unlimited hunters or trappers and no permit or drawing will be required at which time §§ 135.102(a)(1) and (3), (b)(1) and (2) and (d), 135.104(l), 135.106(a)(1), (c)(1) and (d)(1) and 135.107(a)(1) and (b)(1) do not apply]~~ Scope. In addition to the requirements and limitations of §§ 135.2, 135.41 and 135.161 (relating to unlawful actions; State game lands; and Commission-owned or leased), the provisions of this subchapter shall govern public use and access to any area designated as a special wildlife management area.

§ 135.102. ~~[Controlled goose and controlled duck hunting areas]~~ Designation of areas within an established special wildlife management area.

(a) ~~[Hunting.~~

(1) ~~— General.~~ Hunting is by permit only. Permits will be issued on hunting days at a designated registration center. Decoys and dogs are permitted. Dogs shall be kept under control.

(2) ~~— Check-out restriction.~~ A hunting permit holder shall check out at the registration center immediately upon vacating the blind and surrender, in person, the permit. A hunter shall submit birds or mammals taken for examination at the registration center. The deadline for check out shall be 1 hour following the expiration time, as indicated on the permit.

(3) ~~— Unlawful acts.~~ It shall be unlawful to:

(i) ~~— Allow dogs to run unaccompanied or without direction and control.~~

(ii) ~~— Possess firearms except in connection with a hunting permit]~~

Public recreation areas. Any area designated by the Director as a public recreation area within an established special wildlife management area is open to public access for recreation purposes. All hunting and trapping opportunities are closed within any area designated as a public recreation area. The Director may also impose further travel or use restrictions within a public recreation area with appropriate signage or postings.

(b) ~~[Trapping.~~

(1) ~~— General.~~ Trapping permits will be issued on a first come, first-served basis or by drawing until the quota, established by the Director or a designee, has been filled.

(2) ~~— Surrendering permit.~~ A trapping permit holder shall surrender the permit at the registration center, either in person or by mail, within 4 days of the expiration date, indicated on the permit, along with a written report of animals taken on a form supplied with the permit. A person failing to surrender a permit, or file a report, may be denied trapping privileges ~~on the area for 3 years]~~ Propagation areas. Any area designated by the Director as a propagation area within an established special wildlife management area is generally closed to public access. Entry into and hunting and trapping within a propagation area is controlled by an access permit authorization under §§ 135.103 and 135.161 (relating to controlled hunting and trapping area procedures; and Commission-owned or leased).

(c) ~~[Harvest control.~~ Hunting and trapping for any species may be stopped by the Director or a designee when, in his opinion, an adequate harvest of that species has occurred ~~on the area]~~ Open public hunting and trapping areas. Any area designated by the Director as an open hunting and trapping area within an established special wildlife management area is open to public access for general hunting and trapping activities. The Director may impose further travel or use restrictions within an open hunting and trapping area with appropriate signage or postings.

(d) ~~[Cancellation of permits.~~ Permits may be cancelled or denied for infractions of the act, Federal regulations or regulations adopted for wildlife management areas] Controlled hunting and trapping areas. Any area designated by the Director as a controlled hunting or trapping area within an established special wildlife management area is limited to hunting or trapping of designated game and wildlife by access permit only. The Director may impose further travel or use restrictions within a controlled hunting or trapping area with appropriate signage or postings.

§ 135.103. ~~[Registration for controlled goose hunting areas]~~ Controlled hunting and trapping area access permit procedures.

~~[The following apply to reservations for controlled goose hunting areas:~~

~~(1) — Applications shall be submitted on a form and in the manner designated by the Commission. Applications must include the applicant's name, address, date of birth and Commission issued Customer Identification Number, and any other information required by the Commission.~~

~~(2) — Applications for controlled goose hunting areas in the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area or the Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area shall be submitted to the Commission by the deadline set by the Director or a designee.~~

~~(3) — An individual may submit no more than one official application per year to hunt on a controlled hunting area in this Commonwealth. Incomplete, illegible or duplicate applications will not be included in the drawing.~~

~~(4) — The Director will establish the number of applications to be drawn no later than 20 days prior to the respective drawing of reservations for the Middle Creek and Pymatuning Wildlife Management Areas. Reservations will be awarded by the Commission to individuals selected during random public drawings from all eligible applications submitted for each management area. The drawings for each management area will occur on the date, time and at the location set by the Director or a designee. The Commission will hold separate drawings for the disabled access blinds for persons in possession of a disabled person permit issued under section 2923(a) of the act (relating to disabled person permits).~~

~~(i) — *Youth only day.* The Director may designate 1 shooting day at the Middle Creek and Pymatuning Wildlife Management Areas as a youth only day. Adults who accompany a junior hunter on this day may participate in the hunt by calling only. Applications received from junior hunters will be separated and drawn prior to the other applications on the established drawing date for the Special management area. Unsuccessful applicants for the youth shooting day will then be placed with all other applications and the drawing will proceed until all shooting days are filled.~~

~~(ii) — *Veterans or veterans with disabilities only day.* The Director may designate 1 shooting day at the Middle Creek and Pymatuning Wildlife Management Areas as a veterans with disabilities only day. Only persons who possess a resident disabled veteran license, a reduced fee resident disabled veteran license or persons who possess a senior lifetime resident license or senior lifetime resident combination hunting license who can provide documentation evidencing their eligibility for the resident disabled veteran license or a reduced fee resident disabled veteran license are eligible to apply. Successful applicants may be accompanied by up to three properly licensed guests of any general or base hunting license classification. Applications received from veterans with disabilities will be separated and drawn prior to all other applications on the established drawing date for each wildlife management area.~~

~~(5) — A reservation is not transferable. The person whose name appears on the reservation shall present the reservation in person at the wildlife management area registration center designated. A reservation shall entitle the applicant to bring not more than three guests with him. Guests shall be present and register.~~

~~(6) — Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (i), each person is permitted to hunt only 1 day per season on only one controlled goose hunting area as either a reservation holder or a guest of a reservation holder.~~

~~(i) — Exception. — In the absence of applications for unclaimed blinds from persons who have not previously been a registration holder or the guest of a registration holder on the morning of the designated shooting day, a person who has previously been a registration holder or the guest of a registration holder may apply for an unclaimed blind in the manner provided for in paragraph (8).~~

~~(ii) — Penalty. — Except as otherwise authorized by subparagraph (i), a person who files more than one application or hunts more than one time per season on one or more controlled goose hunting areas within this Commonwealth will be denied the privilege to hunt any controlled goose hunting area for 3 years.~~

~~(7) — A reservation for 1 day is valid only up to 1/2 hour before the daily shooting time.~~

~~(8) — Blinds will be assigned, by drawing, to reservation holders on the morning of the designated shooting day. A blind which is unclaimed will be assigned by drawing to persons present and applying for the unclaimed blinds on the morning of each shooting day, 1/2 hour prior to shooting time] (a) Authority to establish and cancel dates and quotas. The Director will establish the dates and number of available access permits each year for any authorized hunting or trapping activities approved for an established controlled hunting or trapping area. The Director may treat any area designated as a propagation area within a special wildlife management area in the same manner as a controlled hunting or trapping area as it relates to the authorization of hunting and trapping by access permit. The Director may cancel or suspend any authorized hunting or trapping date(s) for an established controlled hunting or trapping area when the Commission determines that an adequate number of the respective game or wildlife has been taken, a game or wildlife health or disease concern has been identified, or some other circumstance warrants suspension or closure.~~

~~(b) Notice. The Commission will provide notice of the opening or closure of limited hunting or trapping opportunities for designated game and wildlife within an established controlled hunting or trapping area through a public announcement, website, or other means reasonably intended to reach the widest audience. Notice of the opening of limited hunting or trapping opportunities within an established controlled hunting or trapping area will also include information concerning the application process.~~

~~(c) Application.~~

~~(1) Eligibility. An applicant must possess a valid and current hunting or trapping license, whichever is applicable, plus any other license, stamp or permit that is required for the designated game or wildlife, to be eligible to make application for an access permit. An applicant is eligible to submit only one application per drawing for an access permit to participate in a controlled hunting or trapping activity on any established special wildlife management area.~~

(2) Timeliness, form, and content. Applications for a controlled hunting or trapping permit shall be submitted on a form, in the manner, and by the deadline established by the Commission. Applications must include the applicant's name, Commission-issued Customer Identification Number, and any other information required by the Commission. Incomplete, illegible, duplicate, or late applications will be rejected.

(d) Drawing. The Commission will conduct a random drawing of applications to select participants for each authorized hunting or trapping activity approved for an established controlled hunting or trapping area. Successful applicants will be issued an access permit specifying the date(s) and the authorized species for the applicable hunting or trapping activity. Access permits are not transferable. The Commission may conduct special random drawings prior to scheduled regular drawings for controlled hunting or trapping area access permits that are reserved for:

(i) Junior license holders and persons in possession of a valid mentored youth permit issued under Chapter 147, Subchapter X (relating to Special Permits; Mentored Hunting Program Permit). Any adult who accompanies a junior license holder or mentored youth permit holder on an established special youth day may participate in the hunt by calling, but may not harvest any game or wildlife.

(ii) Persons in possession of a disabled person permit issued under section 2923(a) of the act (relating to disabled person permits).

(iii) Persons in possession of a resident disabled veteran license, a reduced fee resident disabled veteran license or persons who possess a senior lifetime resident license or senior lifetime resident combination hunting license who can provide documentation evidencing their eligibility for the resident disabled veteran license or a reduced fee resident disabled veteran license.

(iv) Persons in possession of a resident general hunting license, senior lifetime resident license, or senior lifetime resident combination hunting license who can provide documentation evidencing their veteran status.

The Commission will include all unsuccessful applications from special random drawing(s) with all other standard applications awaiting the regular drawing(s).

(e) Unclaimed permits. If one or more successful applicants cancels or fails to appear for check-in by 1/2 hour prior to open hunting hours on the scheduled date and time for their hunting or trapping opportunity for any controlled hunt that requires in-person check-in, the Commission may void the issued access permit(s) and conduct a random drawing to reassign unclaimed access permit(s).

§ 135.104. ~~[Restrictions on controlled goose hunting areas]~~ Controlled hunting and trapping area access requirements and limitations.

~~[It is unlawful to:~~

~~(1) — Take wildlife other than ducks, geese, coots and mergansers, except by permit issued by the Director or a designee.~~

~~(2) — Remove ducks, geese, coots and mergansers from a blind prior to vacating the blind to check out.~~

~~(3) — Remain in a blind when the maximum limit of geese, has been killed or the ammunition limit has been expended, or after the time specified on the permit has expired.~~

~~(4) — Shoot from other than an assigned blind.~~

~~(5) — Enter a closed blind, or a blind other than the one assigned.~~

~~(6) — Shoot on, along or from a road or parking area.~~

~~(7) — Possess more than ten rounds of ammunition per hunter in the blind. This does not prohibit one member of a party in a blind from giving part of the ten round allotment to another member of the same party, while in the blind.~~

~~(8) — Obtain or possess more than the original ten rounds of ammunition permitted at the beginning of each day.~~

~~(9) — Take more than one Canada goose per person per day at a controlled goose hunting area. Season and daily limits on other waterfowl shall conform with Chapter 139 (relating to seasons and bag limits) and 50 CFR Part 20 (relating to migratory bird hunting).~~

~~(10) — Take more than one Canada goose per person per season at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area controlled goose hunting area.]~~

(a) Check-in. A person issued an access permit shall check-in upon arrival at the special wildlife management area in the manner set forth in the instructions provided with their permit, which may include physical presentation of their permit to Commission staff at a designated registration area. A person issued a 1-day access permit must check-in on the scheduled date within 1/2 hour before open hunting hours for that day, otherwise the Commission may void the access permit and conduct a random drawing to reassign the unclaimed access permit as set forth in § 135.103(e) (relating to controlled hunting and trapping area procedures).

(b) Check-out. A person issued a controlled hunting or trapping area access permit shall check-out upon departure from the assigned controlled hunting or trapping area in the manner set forth in the instructions provided with their permit, which may include physical presentation of the permit and any game or wildlife harvested to Commission staff at a designated registration area or the mailing of a harvest report card supplied with the permit by the deadline specified on the permit. A person issued a controlled hunting area access permit shall check-out of the controlled hunting area no later than 1 hour after the close of hunting hours for the day as set forth in 141.4 (relating to hunting hours) or within 1 hour of the closing time specified on their access permit.

(c) Access restricted.

(1) Except as provided in this paragraph, entry into a controlled hunting or trapping area without a valid controlled hunting or trapping area access permit is prohibited.

(2) A person in possession of a valid access permit may enter only the controlled hunting or trapping area or hunting blind designated on their access permit.

(3) A person may recover wounded or harvested game or wildlife from a controlled hunting or trapping area that is not designated on their access permit only after receipt of specific advance permission from the Commission.

(4) A person with a valid controlled hunting or trapping area access permit is prohibited from entering or remaining in a controlled hunting or trapping area at any time outside of 1 hour before or 1 hour after legal hunting hours as set forth in 141.4 (relating to hunting hours) or as specified on their access permit without specific advance permission from the Commission.

§ 135.105. ~~[Public hunting areas]~~ Hunting hours in a controlled hunting area.

~~[The following apply to public hunting areas:~~

~~(1) Public hunting areas are those areas not included in the controlled goose area, the controlled duck area, propagation area or public recreation area.~~

~~(2) Hunting wildlife, in season, including waterfowl, is lawful]~~ Any person hunting game or wildlife within a controlled hunting area shall comply with the hunting hours provisions set forth in 141.4 (relating to hunting hours) or as specified on their access permit.

§ 135.106. ~~[Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area]~~ Controlled hunting and trapping area harvest limitations.

~~(a) [In addition to §§ 135.2 and 135.41 (relating to unlawful actions; and State game lands) and this subchapter, the following pertain to the Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area:~~

~~(1) Entering, hunting or trapping on the controlled goose and duck areas is by permit only.~~

~~(2) Waterfowl hunting is permitted Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday]~~ Species restriction. A person with a valid controlled hunting or trapping area access permit is authorized to hunt, trap, or harvest, whichever is applicable, only the game or wildlife species designated on their access permit. All other hunting, trapping, or harvesting is prohibited.

~~(3) Hunting shall conform to the legal hunting hours in § 141.4 and Chapter 141, Appendix G (relating to hunting hours), except legal hunting hours for waterfowl hunting ends each open day at 12:30 p.m.~~

(b) ~~[The following apply to reservations for the controlled duck hunting area:]~~ Nontoxic shot restrictions.

(1) ~~[Reservations will be made on each designated shooting day at the registration center. Hunting is limited to 85 hunters at one time on the 2 areas combined. Reservations will be issued on a first come, first served basis if there are 85 hunters or less applying at the registration center and 1 1/2 hours prior to the opening hunting hour. If there are more than 85 applicants present, a drawing will be held to determine to whom the 85 permits are issued]~~ Small game other than waterfowl. Notwithstanding the authorizations of § 141.22(a)(2) and (c)(1)(ii) (relating to small game seasons), a person hunting small game, other than waterfowl, in a small game controlled hunting area is prohibited from using multiple-projectile ammunition containing any lead shot. Multiple-projectile ammunition is authorized only if it contains nontoxic shot of such sizes and compositions as are otherwise authorized in § 141.22(a)(2) or (c)(1)(ii), whichever is applicable.

(2) ~~[Permits returned to the registration center prior to 10 a.m. may be released to another applicant]~~ Waterfowl. A person hunting waterfowl in a waterfowl controlled hunting area is prohibited from using multiple-projectile ammunition containing any lead shot. Multiple-projectile ammunition is authorized only if it contains nontoxic shot of such sizes and compositions as are otherwise authorized in § 141.23 (relating to nontoxic shot).

(c) ~~[The following apply to the controlled duck hunting areas:]~~ Controlled hunting or trapping area restrictions.

(1) ~~[Ducks, coots and mergansers are the only legal game; taking other wild birds or mammals is prohibited, except by permit issued by the Director or a designee]~~ Parking. If the Commission assigns a parking placard to an access permit holder for any controlled hunting or trapping activity, the permit holder shall park only in assigned parking areas and shall display the parking placard on the dashboard of their vehicle in a manner that allows it to be visible from the exterior of the vehicle.

(2) ~~[A hunter shall possess on his person the identification tag furnished by the Commission while on the areas. The identification tag is valid for entry upon the area indicated on the tag. Entry upon another area is prohibited. Identification tags shall be returned to the registration center at check-out time]~~ Restriction on dogs. Any person hunting or trapping game or wildlife within a controlled hunting or trapping area is prohibited from allowing a dog to run unaccompanied or without direction and control.

(3) Shooting on, along or from a road or parking area. Any person hunting or trapping game or wildlife within a controlled hunting or trapping area is prohibited from shooting on, along, or from parking areas.

(d) ~~[The following apply to special deer hunts within the Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area:]~~ Controlled waterfowl hunting area specific restrictions.

(1) ~~[Authority to establish special hunt. The Director may authorize special deer hunts within the Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area by permit. The Director will~~

~~establish the number of access permits to be issued and designate the one or more hunt zones within the controlled area prior to the opening of the earliest established deer season]~~ A person hunting waterfowl in a controlled waterfowl hunting area or blind is authorized to begin the hunt and thereafter possess or discharge no more than ten rounds of ammunition. This does not prohibit one member of a party in a controlled waterfowl hunting area or blind from giving part of their original ten-round allotment to another member of the same hunting party. The Director may waive the limitations of this paragraph for any designated youth waterfowl hunting day.

(2) ~~[Permit authorization. During any year the Director authorizes a special deer hunt within the Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area, permitted hunters are eligible to access the controlled area to hunt deer during any applicable antlered or antler-less deer season established in § 139.4 (relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year) using valid antlered and antlerless licenses and harvest tags issued to them. Notwithstanding § 135.161(2) (relating to Commission owned or leased), the Executive Director may designate dates for deer hunting outside of established seasons and bag limits within the controlled area as authorized by § 139.3 (relating to authority to alter seasons and bag limits)]~~ A person hunting waterfowl in a controlled waterfowl hunting area is prohibited from removing any waterfowl from the person's assigned waterfowl hunting area or blind prior to final check-out for that day.

(3) ~~[Applications. An individual possessing a valid hunting license for the current license year may submit a maximum of one application per year to participate in a special deer hunt within the Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area. Applications must include the applicant's name, address, date of birth, Commission issued Customer Identification Number and any other information required by the Commission. Applicants shall submit completed applications in the manner directed by the Director or a designee. Incomplete, illegible or duplicate applications will not be included in the drawing]~~ A person hunting waterfowl in a controlled waterfowl hunting area is prohibited from harvesting more than one Canada goose per person per day. Seasons and daily limits for all other waterfowl shall conform with Chapter 139 (relating to seasons and bag limits) and 50 CFR Part 20 (relating to migratory bird hunting).

~~[(4) — Drawing. The Director or a designee will establish the application deadline and the date, time and location for the random drawing of applications for the issuance of special deer hunt permits within the Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area. Special deer hunt access permits are not transferrable.~~

~~(5) — Hunting hours and duration of access limited. Hunting during the special deer hunt shall conform to the legal hunting hours in § 141.4 and Chapter 141, Appendix G, except legal hunting hours for deer begins each open day at 12:30 p.m. Permittees may access the controlled area no sooner than the start of legal hours and all permittees shall vacate the controlled area within 1 hour after the close of hunting hours. Entering or remaining in the controlled area after this period shall be authorized in advance by the Commission after a report is made to the Commission's Northwest Regional Office.~~

~~(6) — Access to controlled area limited. A permittee may enter and hunt deer only within the hunt zone or hunt zones designated by his permit. Entry into other hunt zones or areas outside of the hunt zones to pursue a wounded deer shall be authorized in advance by the Commission after a report is made to the Commission's Northwest Regional Office.~~

~~(7) — Parking. A permittee shall park only in assigned parking areas and shall display the provided parking placard on the dashboard of the vehicle in a manner that allows it to be read from the exterior of the vehicle.~~

~~(8) — Reporting. A permittee [that successfully harvests a deer during the special deer hunt shall report the harvest to the Commission within 10 days of the kill by completing the report card supplied with the special deer hunt permit for reporting deer killed and mail the report card to the Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area in Hartstown, PA, or by any other method designated by the Director.~~

~~(9) — Violations. A person violating any requirement or restriction established within this section may be prosecuted under section 721 of the act (relating to control of property) or other applicable provision of the act and, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay the fine prescribed in the act. Furthermore, the Director may deny, revoke or suspend a permit for any violation of the requirements of this subchapter upon written notice to the permittee.]~~

§ 135.107. ~~[Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area]~~ Unlawful acts.

~~[(a) — In addition to §§ 135.2 and 135.41 (relating to unlawful actions; and State game lands) and this subchapter, the following pertain to the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area:~~

~~(1) — Entering, hunting, trapping or fishing on the controlled areas shall be by permit only, except as listed in paragraph (3).~~

~~(2) — From March 1 to September 14, entry on foot or vehicle is restricted to roadways and designated trails, except that when gates are closed, entry is prohibited.~~

~~(3) — Shooting on, along, or from parking areas or highways which traverse or parallel the controlled Hunting Area is prohibited.~~

~~(4) — Waterfowl hunting is permitted on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Starting times conform to State and Federal regulations. Shooting ends at 1:30 p.m.~~

~~(5) — A permit holder shall surrender, in person, the permit at the registration center through which he entered. A hunter shall submit for examination all game taken. The deadline for checking out is 2:30 p.m.~~

~~(6) — Nontoxic shot in sizes no larger than # 4 Bismuth/tin and # 2 steel shall be used in the controlled and propagation areas for hunting small game. For hunting waterfowl, nontoxic shot no larger than size “T” shall be used.~~

~~(b) — The following apply to special deer hunts on the controlled areas:~~

~~(1) — Special deer hunt will be by permit only.~~

~~(2) — A drawing shall be conducted at the visitor center to determine successful applicants on dates designated by the Director or a designee.~~

~~(3) — The number of permits and methods of issue will be set by the Director or a designee prior to the drawing.~~

~~(4) — The Director reserves the right to suspend the hunt and cancel remaining permits when an adequate number of deer have been taken.~~

~~(5) — A successful permittee shall submit the deer for examination at the visitor center on the date of the permit.~~

~~(6) — A permittee shall return the permit to the visitor center not later than 1/2 hour after the closing time of the hunt, as specified on the permit.~~

~~(7) — Hunters participating in the special archery and muzzleloader hunts inside the controlled areas shall wear a minimum of 250 square inches of fluorescent orange material on the head, chest and back combined.~~

~~(8) — Notwithstanding the provisions in § 135.161(2) (relating to Commission owned or leased lands or waters), the Director may designate dates for deer hunting outside of established seasons and bag limits.~~

~~(c) — The following apply to special rabbit and squirrel hunts on the controlled hunting areas:~~

~~(1) — Rabbit and squirrel hunting will be by permit only.~~

~~(2) — A drawing will be conducted at the visitor center to determine successful applicants on dates designated by the Director or a designee.~~

~~(3) — The number of permits and methods of issue shall be set by the Director or a designee prior to the drawing.~~

~~(4) — The Director reserves the right to suspend the hunt and cancel remaining permits when an adequate number of rabbits or squirrels, or both, have been taken.~~

~~(5) — The permittee shall return the permit and report form to the visitor center by United States Postal Service no later than 5 days after the expiration of the permit] A person violating any provision of this subchapter may be prosecuted under section 721 (relating to control of property) or other applicable provision of the act and, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay the fine prescribed in the act. Furthermore, the Director may deny, revoke or suspend a permit for any violation of this subchapter upon written notice to the permittee.~~

Action:

ADOPTED RULEMAKING

B. 58 Pa. Code §§ 131.2 and 135.41.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Commission at its September 24, 2022, meeting amends §§ 131.2 and 135.41 (relating to definitions; state game lands) to restrict the operation of boats propelled by electric motors on waterways owned or controlled by the Commission to slow, no-wake speed. |

[GD1][ME2]

Action:

ANNEX "A"

CHAPTER 131. PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

§131.2. Definitions.

In addition to the definitions contained in section 102 of the act (relating to definitions), the following words and terms, when used in this part or in the act, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

* * * * *

Regular small game hunting season--The designated period of time when resident small game species may be hunted and taken.

Slow, no wake speed--The slowest possible speed of a motorboat required to maintain maneuverability so that the wake or wash created by the motorboat on the surface of the water is minimal.

Special firearms deer season--Any firearms deer season, except muzzleloader season, that precedes the regular firearms deer season.

* * * * *

CHAPTER 135. LANDS AND BUILDINGS

Subchapter C. STATE GAME LANDS

§ 135.41. State game lands.

* * * * *

(c) *Additional prohibitions.* In addition to the prohibitions contained in the act pertaining to State game lands and § 135.2, except with the written permission of the Director, it is unlawful to:

* * * * *

(7) Drive motor vehicles with or without attachments having a registered gross vehicle weight in excess of 12,000 pounds.

(8) Use a boat propelled by a motor or operate a boat in excess of slow, no wake speed. Boats propelled by electric motors are authorized for use on waterways when operated at slow, no-wake speed unless the waterway is otherwise posted closed to all boats or all boats propelled by a motor.

(9) Consume, possess or transport any alcohol, liquor, beer, malt or brewed alcoholic beverage.

* * * * *

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REAL ESTATE

C. Donation

Contract No. L-3804, State Game Land No. 313, Tioga County

Commentary:

Wellsboro Industrial Park, L.P. is offering to donate 5.56+/- acres of land in Delmar Township, Tioga County, adjoining State Game Land No. 313 (Exhibit RED 1). The parcel will expand the Commission's ownership of the emergent wetland called "The Muck," an Important Bird Area known to provide habitat and breeding grounds for migratory birds. OGM rights will be retained by Wellsboro Industrial Park. Access is from Dressler Road.

Action:



L-3804
Donation
Wellsboro Industrial Park, L.P.
Tract
5.56+/- Acres

SGL 313



0 125 250 500 750 1,000
US Feet

Exhibit RED 1
State Game Land No. 313

L-3804
Donation
Wellsboro Industrial Park, L.P. Tract
5.56+/- Acres

Delmar Township
Tioga County
Northcentral Region

Contract No. L-3805, State Game Land No. 105, Armstrong County

Commentary: The heirs of Ethel R. Snyder are offering to donate 54+/- acres of land in Sugar Creek Township, Armstrong County near State Game Land No. 105 (Exhibit RED 2). The property offers excellent forested habitat and has the potential to connect to State Game Land No. 105 with future acquisitions. The Grantors are reserving the oil, gas, and mineral rights. There is currently no public access to the property.

Action:



Exhibit RED 2
State Game Land No. 105

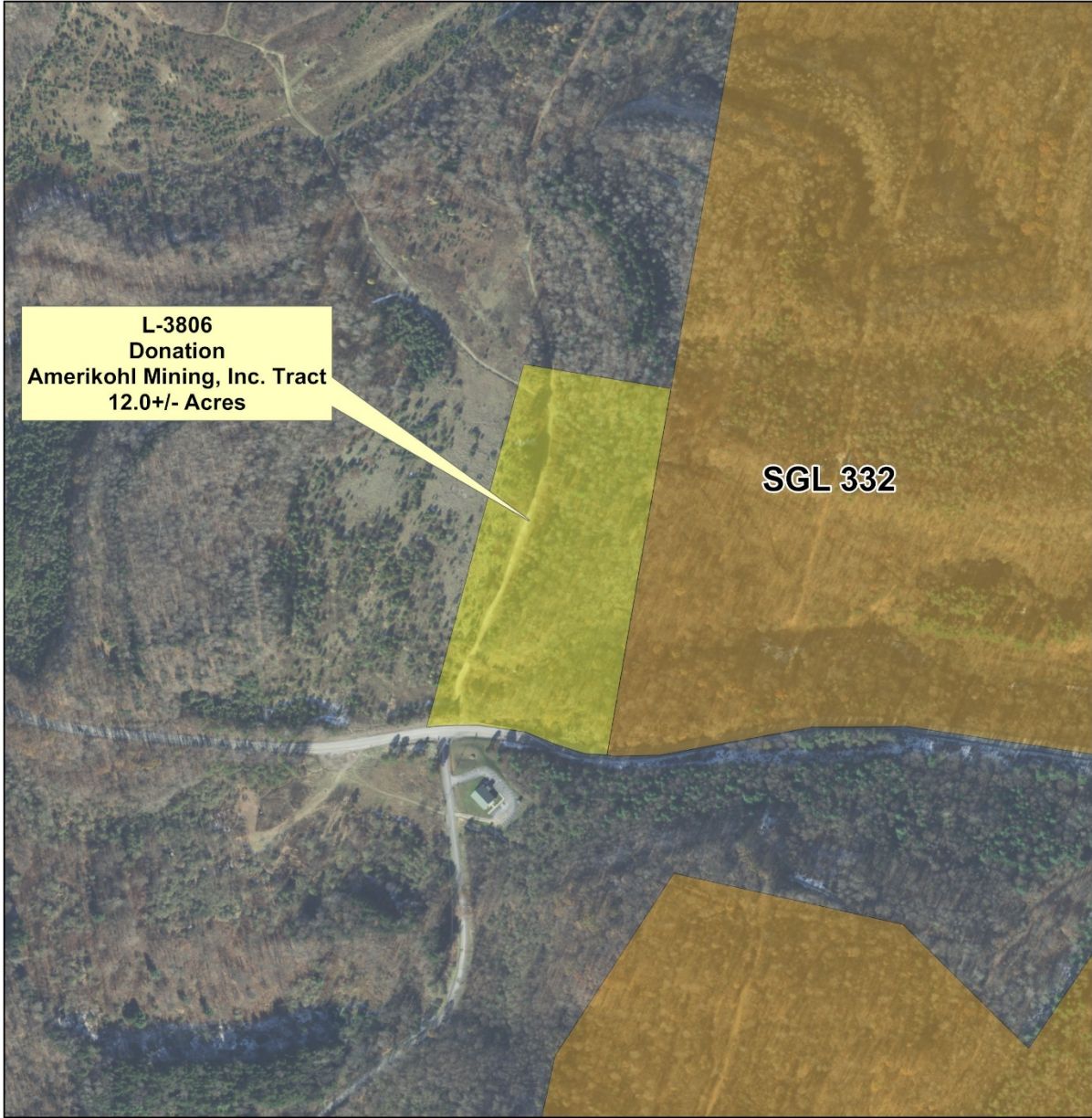
L-3805
Donation
Snyder Tract
54.0+/- Acres

Sugar Creek Township
Armstrong County
Southwest Region

Contract No. L-3806, State Game Land No. 332, Indiana County

Commentary: Amerikohl Mining, Inc. is offering to donate 12+/- acres of land in Young Township, Indiana County adjoining State Game Land No. 332 (Exhibit RED 3). Amerikohl will retain a right-of-way to their adjacent land. The oil and gas rights have been excepted and reserved by prior owners. The parcel will offer improved access to State Game Land No. 332 from State Route 286.

Action:



0 125 250 500 750 1,000
US Feet

Exhibit RED 3
State Game Land No. 332

L-3806
Donation
Amerikohl Mining, Inc. Tract
12.0+/- Acres

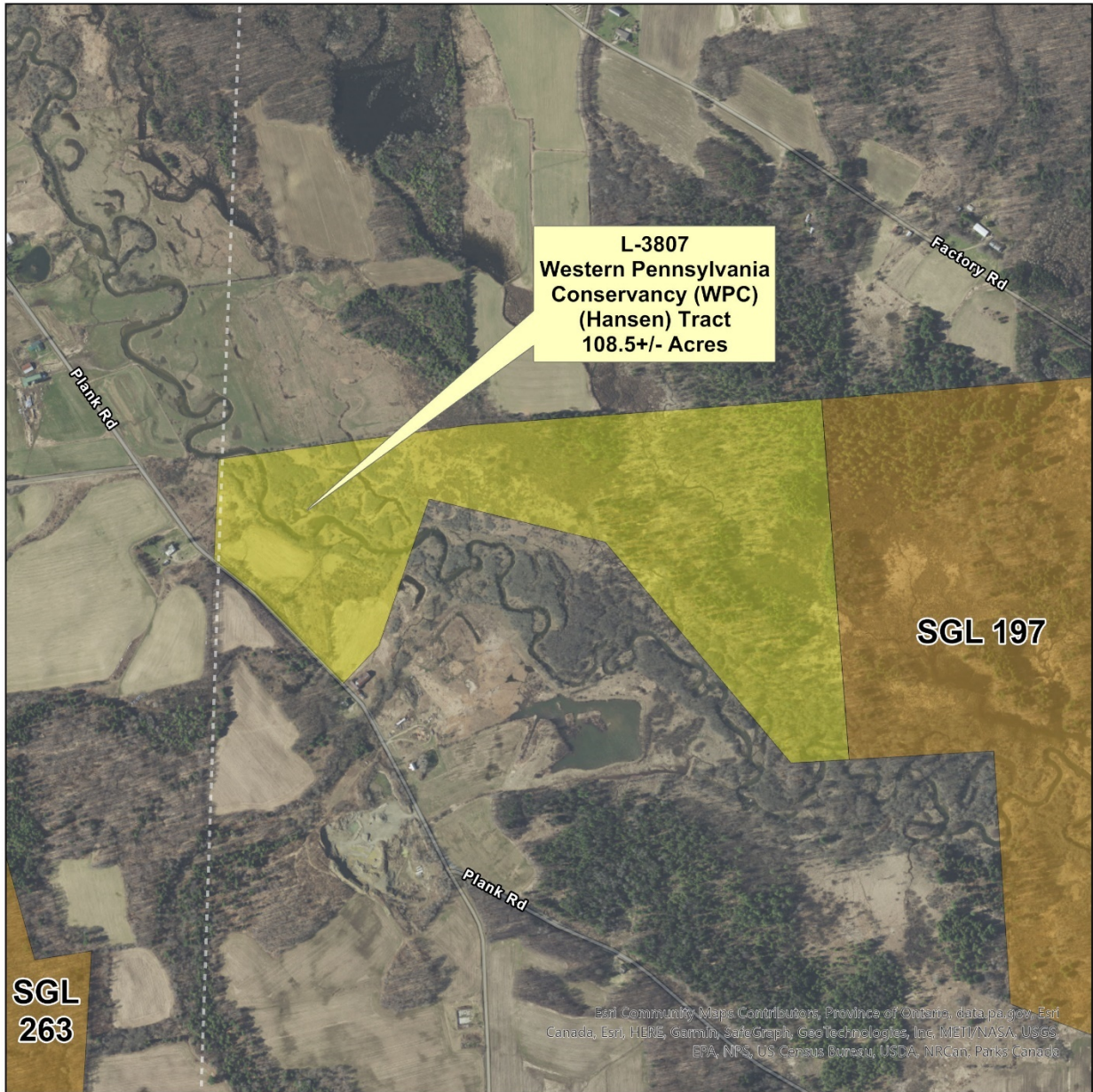
Young Township
Indiana County
Southwest Region

D. Acquisition

Contract No. L-3807, State Game Land No. 197, Warren County

Commentary: Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) is offering 108.5+/- acres of land in Columbus Township, Warren County, adjoining State Game Land No. 197 (Exhibit RED 4). The option price is \$43,400 lump sum. A portion of the funding is currently being held by WPC. At the June 28, 2011 Commission Meeting, the Board approved contract L-3586 comprising 195+/- acres of land in Cool Spring Township, Mercer County, adjoining State Game Land No. 294, offered by WPC for \$90,000. WPC was unsuccessful in acquiring the 195+/- acres associated with L-3586 and has held the funds until suitable replacement lands became available. A portion of the funds was used to acquire the Halliday tract under contract L-3739, leaving \$25,923.89 to be applied to this acquisition. The balance of \$17,476.11 will be paid from the Game Fund. The property will be subject to deed restrictions pursuant to a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. WPC has also partnered with Ducks Unlimited to apply for grant funding through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Access is from Plank Road.

Action:



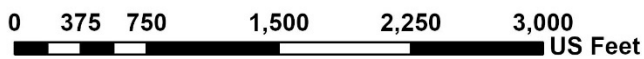
Esri Community Map Contributors: Province of Ontario, data.pa.gov, Esri, Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, NRCam, Parks Canada

Exhibit RED 4

State Game Land No. 197

**L-3807
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC)
(Hansen) Tract
108.5+/- Acres**

**Columbus Township
Warren County
Northwest Region**



Contract No. L-3808, State Game Land No. 331, Clearfield County

Commentary: Cherry Timber Associates, Inc. is offering 72+/- acres of land in Huston Township, Clearfield County, adjoining State Game Land No. 331 (Exhibit RED 5). The option price is \$750 per acre to be paid from the Game Fund. The parcel is an indenture to the State Game Land and therefore the Commission may exceed \$400 per acre under Section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code. Access is through existing State Game Land No. 331.

Action:

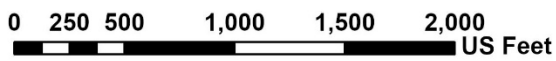
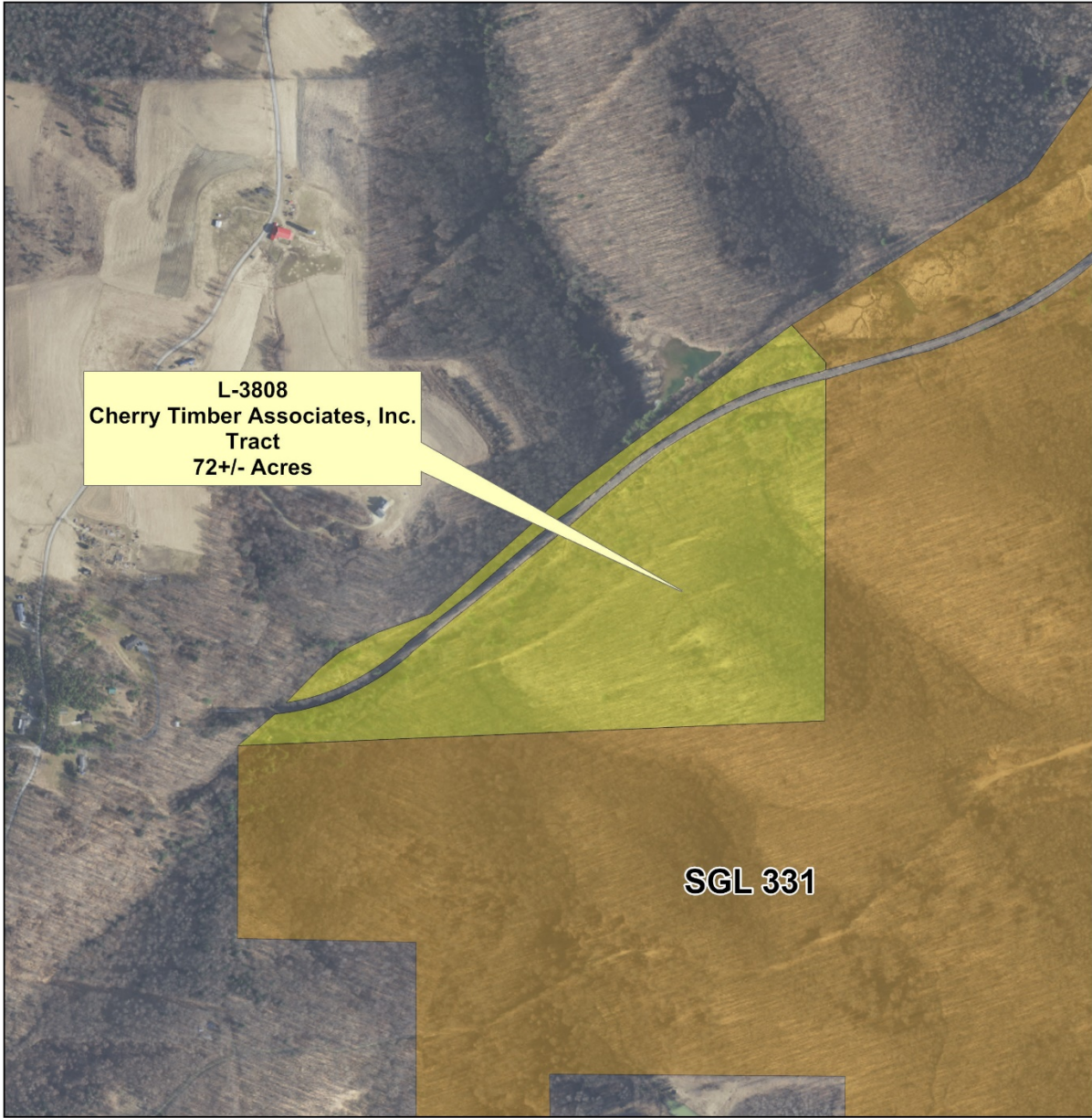


Exhibit RED 5

State Game Land No. 331

**L-3808
Cherry Timber Associates, Inc. Tract
72+/- Acres**

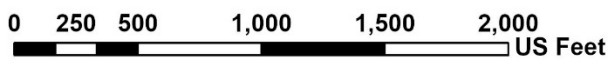
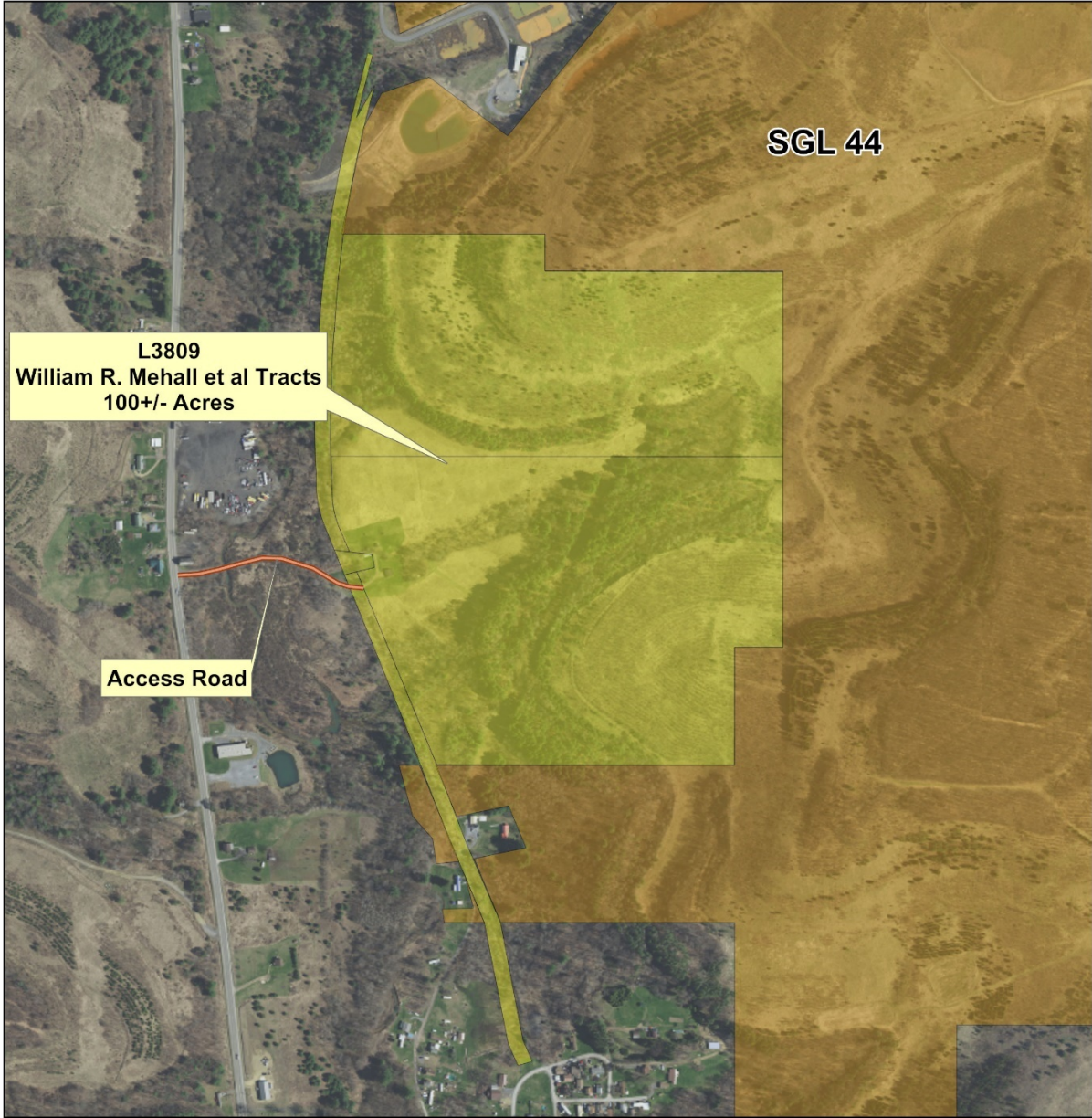
**Huston Township
Clearfield County
Northcentral Region**

Contract No. L-3809, State Game Land No. 44, Elk County

Commentary:

The Estate of William R. Mehall, Brent J. Salvadori, Mario J. Salvadori, Susan M. Ford, Ernest R. Linane and Judith R. Milligan are offering 100+/- acres of land in Horton Township, Elk County, adjoining State Game Land No. 44 (Exhibit RED 6). The option price is \$230,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Fund. The parcel is an indenture to the State Game Land and therefore the Commission may exceed \$400 per acre under Section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code. Access is from State Route 219.

Action:



SGL 44

**L3809
William R. Mehall et al Tracts
100+/- Acres**

Access Road

Exhibit RED 6

State Game Land No. 44

**L-3809
William R. Mehall et al Tracts
100+/- Acres**

**Horton Township
Elk County
Northcentral Region**

Contract No. L-3810, State Game Land No. 323, Centre County

Commentary: Linda L. Kraft and James M. Lucas are offering 57+/- acres of land in Marion Township, Centre County, adjoining State Game Land No. 323 (Exhibit RED 7). The option price is \$135,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Commission's restricted account, representing funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on state game lands from previously approved projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. Access is through existing State Game Land No. 323.

Action:

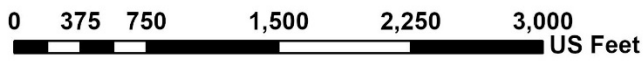


Exhibit RED 7

State Game Land No. 323

**L-3810
Linda L. Kraft & James M. Lucas Tract
57+/- Acres**

**Marion Township
Centre County
Northcentral Region**

Contract No. L-3811, State Game Land No. 323, Centre County

Commentary: Alan S. Fisher is offering 57+/- acres of land in Boggs and Spring Townships, Centre County, adjoining State Game Land No. 323 (Exhibit RED 8). The option price is \$2,500 per acre to be paid from the Game Fund. The parcel is an indenture to the State Game Land and therefore the Commission may exceed \$400 per acre under Section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code. Access is through existing State Game Land No. 323.

Action:

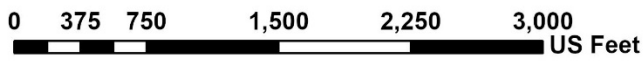
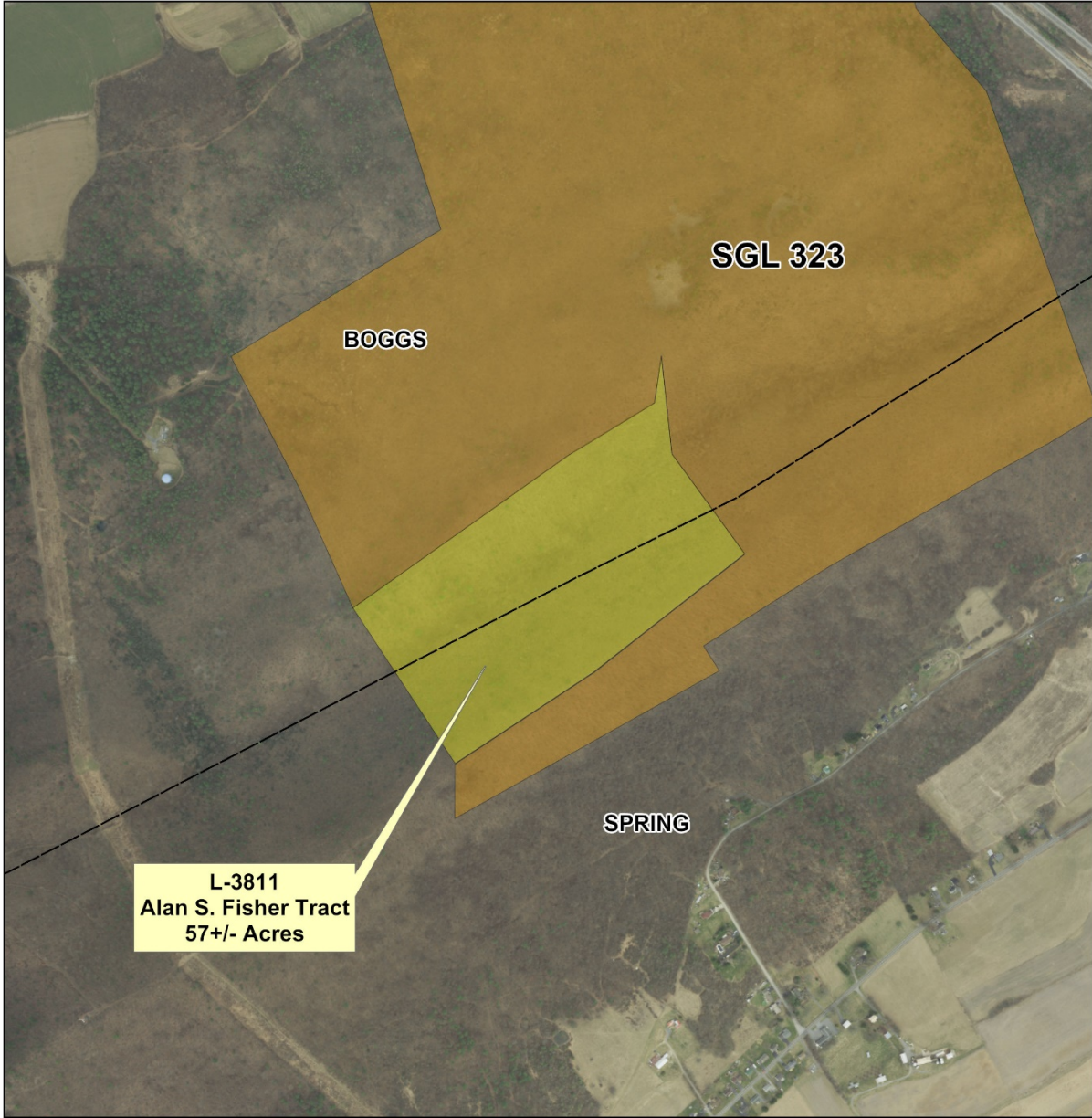


Exhibit RED 8

State Game Land No. 323

**L-3811
Alan S. Fisher Tract
57+/- Acres**

**Boggs & Spring Townships
Centre County
Northcentral Region**

Contract No. L-3812, State Game Land No. 141, Carbon County

Commentary:

Wildlands Conservancy is offering 588+/- acres of land in Penn Forest Township, Carbon County, adjoining and connecting two tracts of State Game Land No. 141 (Exhibit RED 9). The Game Commission has committed to providing up to \$1,200,000 towards the acquisition and has applied to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the use of Pittman-Robertson (PR) funds to acquire the property. The required 25% state match for the PR grant will come from the Wildlands Conservancy's own grant award from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The property will be subject to deed restrictions pursuant to both of these funding sources. Access is from Drakes Creek Rd.

The Commission must provide the USFWS award amount to Wildlands Conservancy from the Commission's restricted revenue account set up through Treasury for "Other Cost Sharing Funds," and then directly accept the federal reimbursement amount back into the restricted revenue account. This has the double benefit of being efficient, as well as ensuring federal dollars can be tracked directly to the acquisition project as intended by the USFWS. The net effect to the restricted revenue account or the Game Fund is \$0.00. To accomplish this, the Board of Commissioners must approve the use of the restricted revenue account, payment from the account, and the subsequent acceptance of the federal Pittman-Robertson funds deposited into the account.

Action:

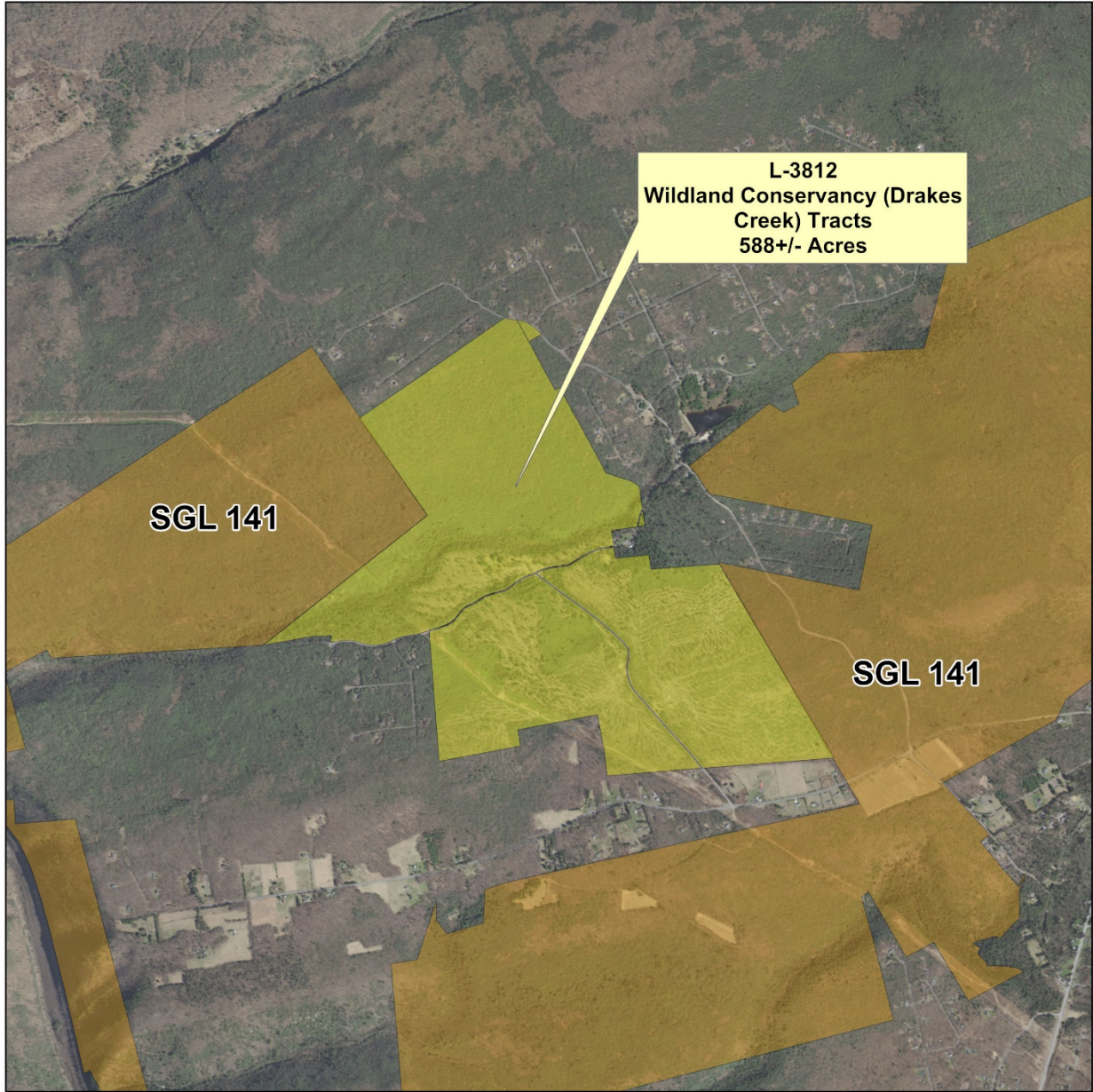
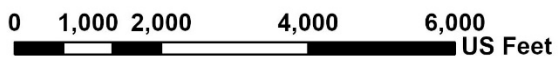


Exhibit RED 9

State Game Land No. 141

**L-3812
Wildland Conservancy (Drakes Creek) Tracts
588+/- Acres**

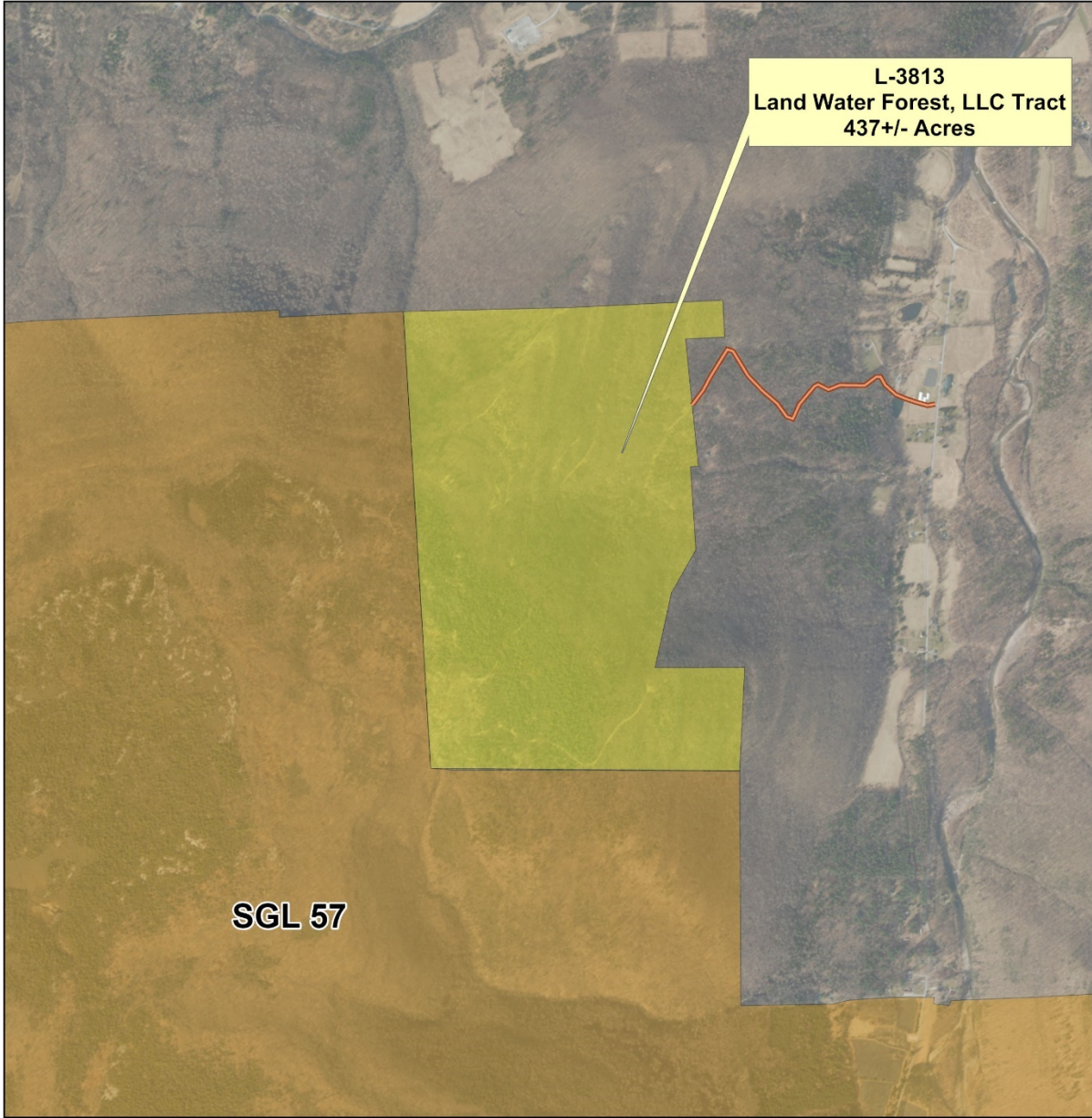
**Penn Forest Township
Carbon County
Northeast Region**



Contract No. L-3813, State Game Land No. 57, Wyoming County

Commentary: Land Water Forest, LLC is offering 437+/- acres of land in Forkston Township, Wyoming County, adjoining State Game Land No. 57 (Exhibit RED 10). The option price is \$285,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Commission's restricted account, representing funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on state game lands from previously approved projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. Land Water Forest, LLC is excepting and reserving the oil, gas and mineral rights, but not the right to use the surface of the property for any future oil and gas development. Access is from Windy Valley Rd.

Action:



— Right-of-Way Access



Exhibit RED 10
State Game Land No. 57

L-3813
Land Water Forest, LLC Tract
437+/- Acres

Forkston Township
Wyoming County
Northeast Region

Contract No. L-3814, State Game Land No. 57, Wyoming County

Commentary: Land Water Forest, LLC is offering 229+/- acres of land in Forkston Township, Wyoming County, near State Game Land No. 57 (Exhibit RED 11). The option price is \$400 per acre to be paid from the Game Fund. Land Water Forest, LLC is excepting and reserving the oil, gas and mineral rights, but not the right to use the surface of the property for any future oil and gas development. Access is from Mountain Rd.

Action:

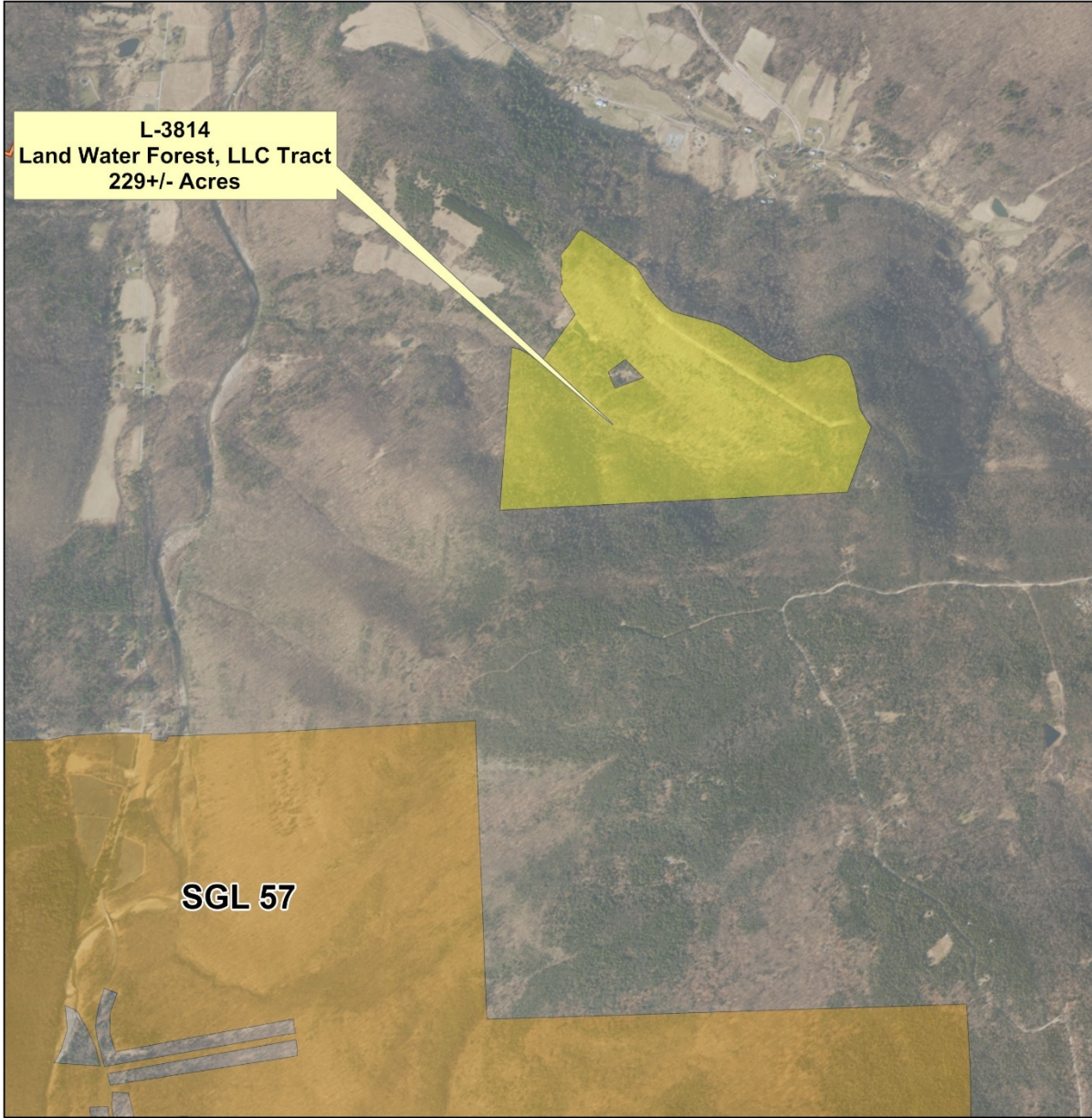


Exhibit RED 11
State Game Land No. 57

L-3814
Land Water Forest, LLC Tract
229+/- Acres

Forkston Township
Wyoming County
Northeast Region

Contract No. L-3815, State Game Land No. 116, Pike County

Commentary:

The Nature Conservancy is offering 130+/- acres of land in Shohola Township, Pike County, adjoining State Game Land No. 116 (Exhibit RED 12). The option price is \$205,200 lump sum to be paid from the Game Fund. The parcel is an indenture to the State Game Land and therefore the Commission may exceed \$400 per acre under Section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code. The Nature Conservancy's acquisition of the property is contingent upon them receiving funding through a partnership grant with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Covenants, conditions and restrictions associated with this funding will be required to accept the property. Access is through existing State Game Land No. 116.

Action:

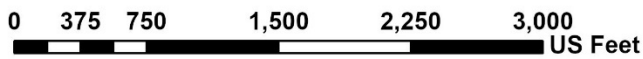
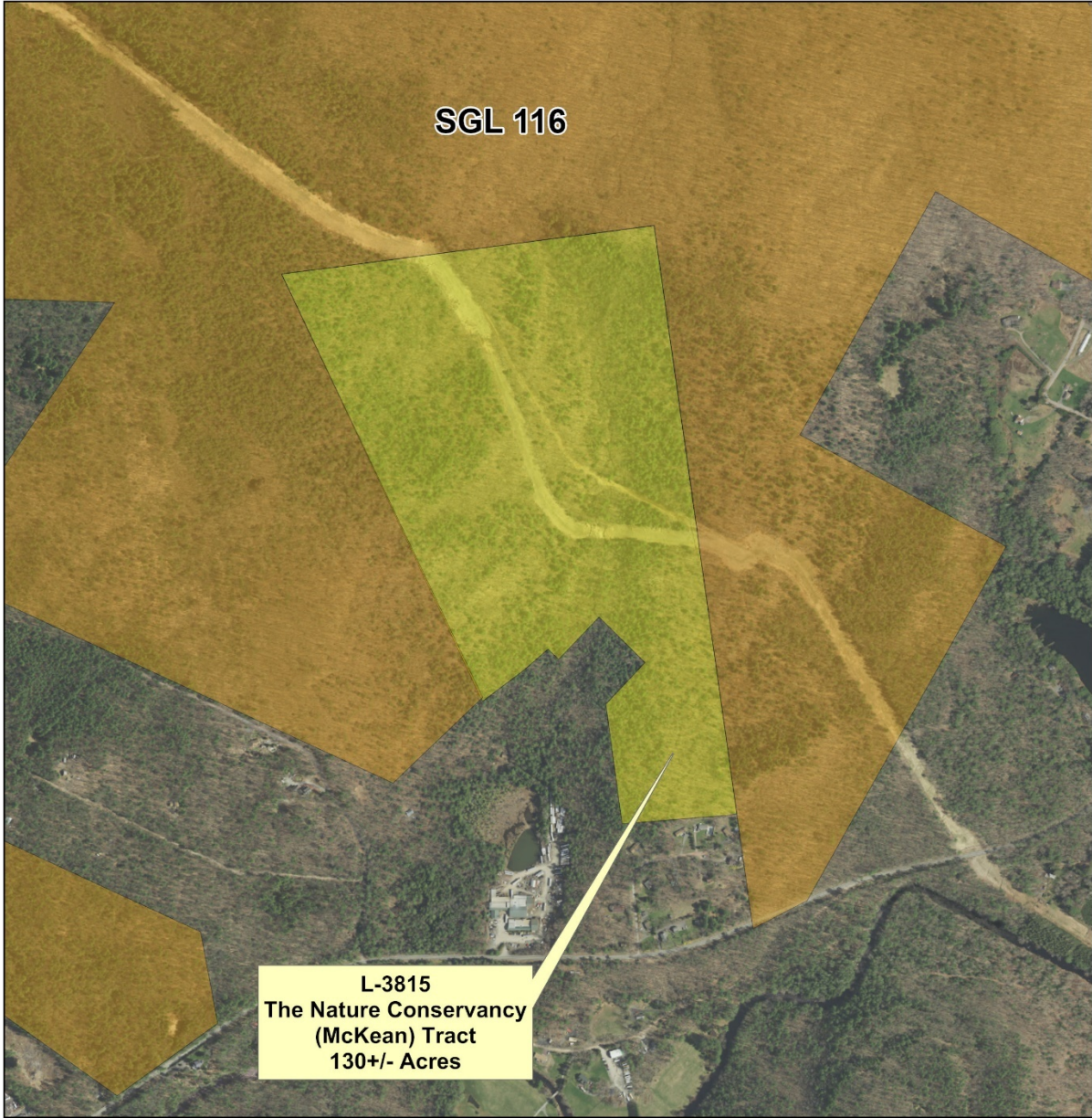


Exhibit RED 12

State Game Land No. 116

**L-3815
The Nature Conservancy (McKean) Tract
130+/- Acres**

**Shohola Township
Pike County
Northeast Region**

Contract No. L-3816, State Game Land No. 139, Bucks County

Commentary:

Natural Lands is offering 28+/- acres of land in East Rockhill Township, Bucks County near State Game Land No. 139 (Exhibit RED 13). The option price is \$400 per acre to be paid from the Game Fund. Natural Lands' acquisition of the property is contingent upon them receiving funding through partnership grants provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service through the Highlands Conservation Act (HCA). Covenants, conditions, and restrictions associated with these funding sources will be required to accept the property. Access is from Rockhill Road.

Because the HCA funds are payable to the Commonwealth only as a reimbursement, the Commonwealth has determined the most expeditious way to move forward is for the Commission to accept a subaward for the federal funds from DCNR, provide the HCA award amount to Natural Lands from the Commission's restricted revenue account set up through Treasury for "Other Cost Sharing Funds," and then directly accept the HCA federal reimbursement amount back into the restricted revenue account. This has the double benefit of being efficient, as well as ensuring federal dollars can be tracked directly to the acquisition project as intended by the HCA. The net effect to the restricted revenue account or the Game Fund is \$0.00. To accomplish this, the Board of Commissioners must approve the use of the restricted revenue account, payment from the account, and the subsequent acceptance of the federal HCA funds deposited into the account.

Action:

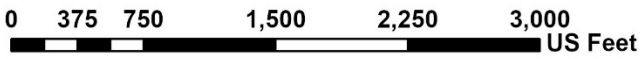
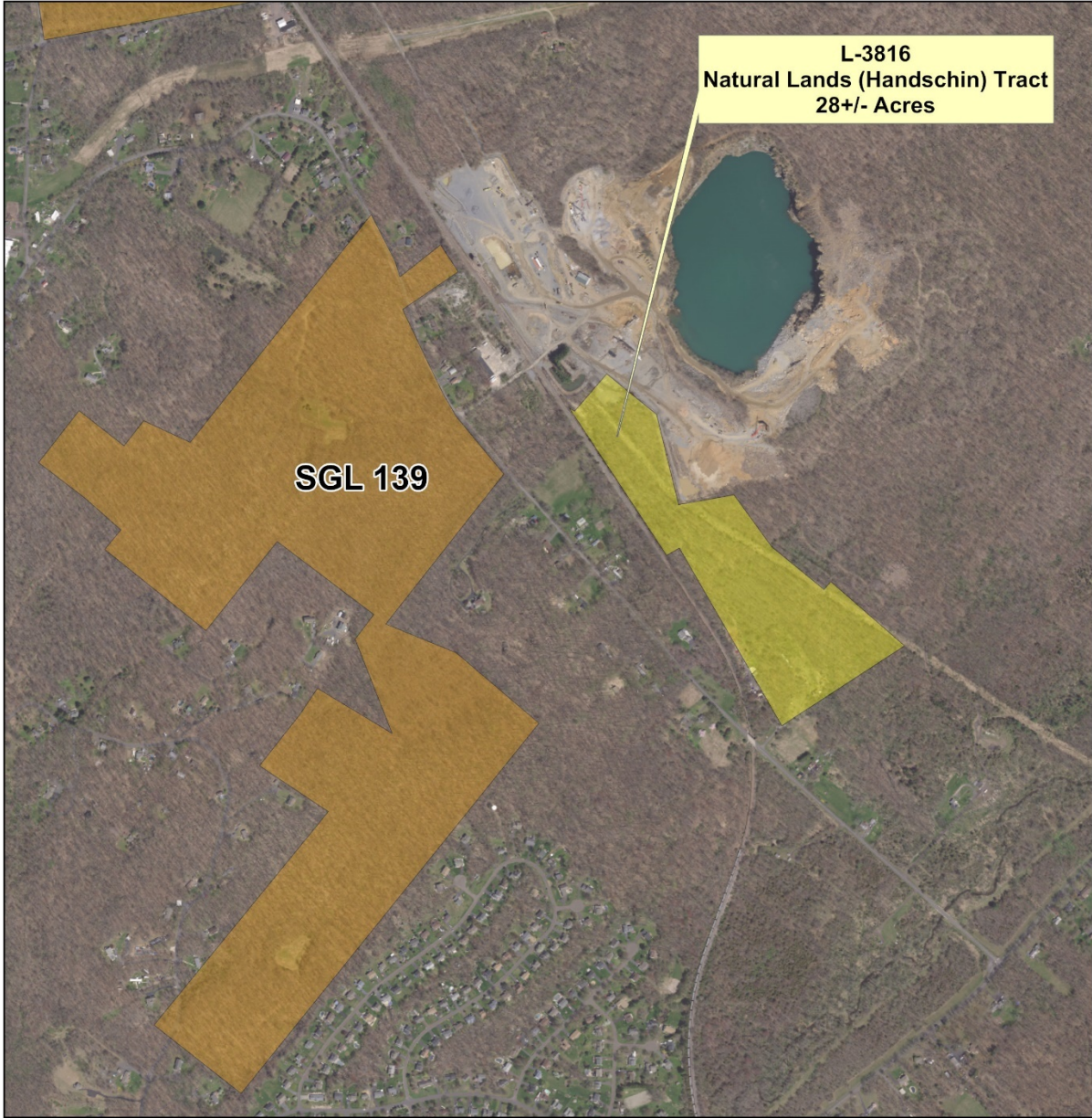


Exhibit RED 13

State Game Land No. 139

**L-3816
Natural Lands (Handschin) Tract
28+/- Acres**

**East Rockhill Township
Bucks County
Southeast Region**

Contract No. L-3818, State Game Land No. 168, Northampton County

Commentary: Barbara Diefenderfer is offering 5+/- acres of land in Lehigh Township, Northampton County, adjoining State Game Land No. 168 (Exhibit RED 18). The option price is \$17,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Fund. The parcel is an interior to the State Game Land and therefore the Commission may exceed \$400 per acre under Section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code. Access is through existing State Game Land No. 168.

Action:

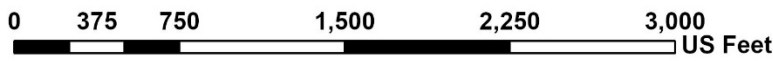
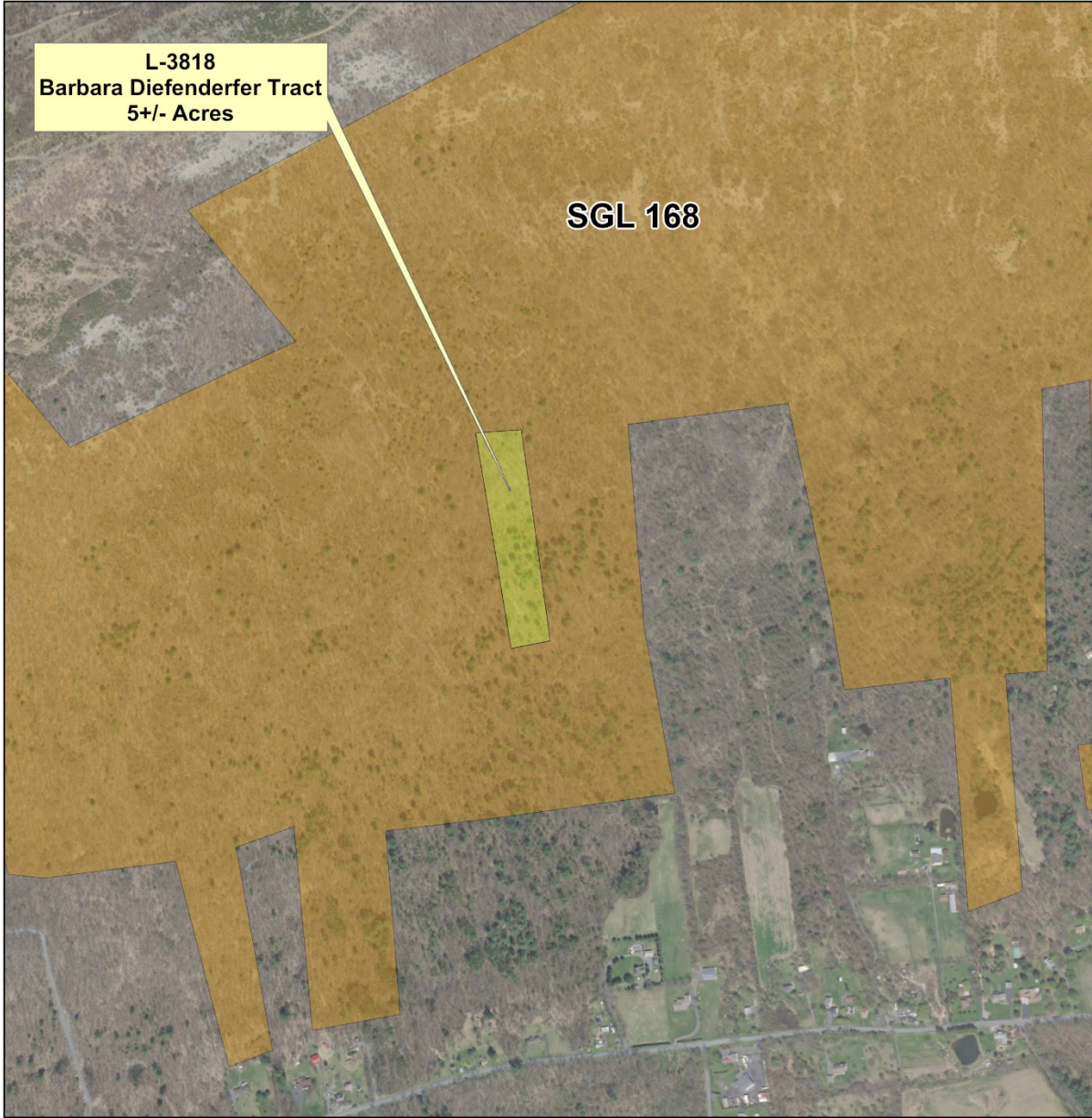


Exhibit RED 18

State Game Land No. 168

**L-3818
Barbara Diefenderfer Tract
5+/- Acres**

**Lehigh Township
Northampton County
Southeast Region**

E. Exchange

Contract No. L-3817, State Game Land No. 243, York County

Commentary: Gerald P. and Marjorie L. Jones are offering 6+/- acres of land in Franklin Township, York County, adjoining State Game Land No. 243 to the Commission in exchange for 1+/- acres of State Game Land No. 243 in Franklin Township, York County (Exhibit RED 14). Staff has determined that the 6+/- acres to be conveyed to the Commission is of greater value than the land to be conveyed to the Joneses and that the proposed exchange is in the best interest of the Commission. Access to the six-acre parcel is through existing State Game Land 243.

Action:



PGC Tract
1.0+/- Acres

Gerald P. & Marjorie L. Jones
Tract
6.0+/- Acres

SGL 243



0 100 200 400 600 800
US Feet

Exhibit RED 14
State Game Land No. 243
L-3817
Land Exchange
Gerald P. & Marjorie L. Jones
to PGC 6.0+/- Acres
PGC to
Gerald P. & Marjorie L. Jones 1.0+/- Acre
Franklin Township
York County
Southcentral Region

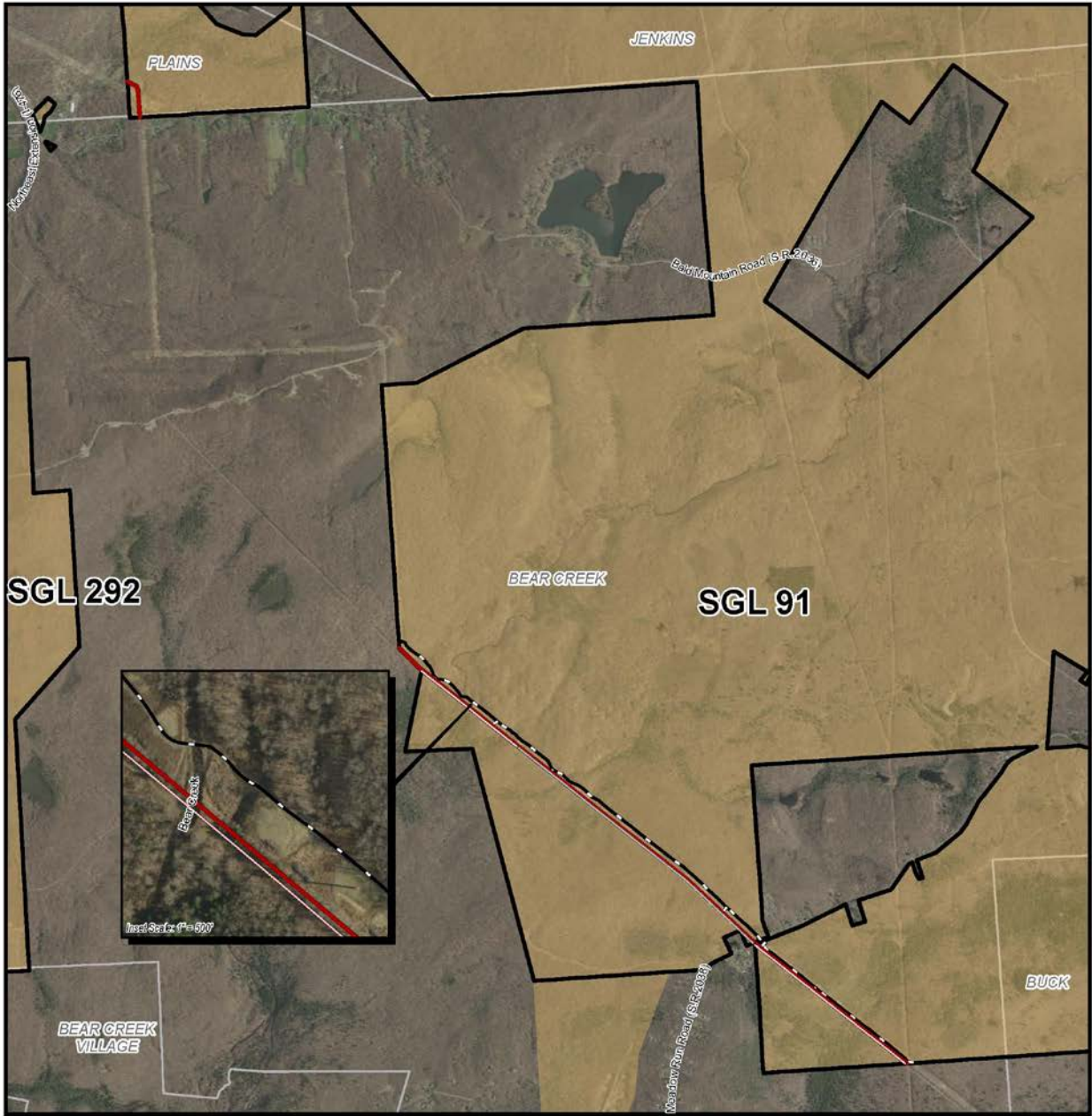
State Game Land No. 91, Luzerne County

Commentary:

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (TRANSCO) will be exchanging land valued at an initial fee payment of \$343,493.46 for a new License for Right-of-Way (License) granting the privileges of (1) constructing, operating, maintaining and removing a total of 7,046' of 24" natural gas pipeline, a total of 15,632' of 30" natural gas pipeline, and appurtenant cathodic protection equipment all within a 23.86-acre right-of-way, (2) upgrading, using and maintaining a total of 15,590' of access roads, and (3) using and reclaiming a total of 20.62 acres of temporary workspace on State Game Land No. 91 in Plains and Bear Creek Townships, Luzerne County (Exhibit RED 15). TRANSCO's 24" pipeline has been on the game lands since 1958 and has been authorized by Commission license or private right-of-way agreement since that time. The entire length of TRANSCO's new 30" pipeline on the game lands will be installed adjacent to an overhead electric transmission line and will be between the electric transmission line and their existing 24" pipeline for all but 931'.

The Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management is requesting Commission approval to deposit the \$343,493.46 into the restricted revenue account to secure this obligation for exchange. All future annual license fees will be deposited into the Game Fund.

Action:



- Licensed 30" Pipeline
- - - Licensed 24" Pipeline
- Licensed Access Roads
- 24" Pipeline by Private ROW Agreement
- Approximate Municipal Boundaries

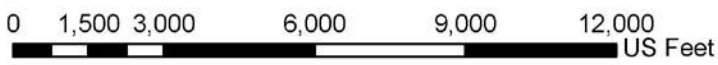


Exhibit RED 15
State Game Land No. 91
Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC
License for Right-of-Way/Land Exchange
Plains & Bear Creek Townships
Luzerne County
Northeast Region

F. Dedication of Township Road

State Game Land No. 203, Springdale Township, Allegheny County

Commentary: The Board of Supervisors of Springdale Township, Allegheny County has requested that a right of way for a township road, 25 feet in width and +/- 867 feet in length, crossing a portion of State Game Land No. 203, be dedicated as a public road (Exhibit RED 16). The road is currently a game lands road left open to public travel and services several private residences. Springdale Township has entered into an “Intermunicipal Road Construction and Maintenance Agreement and Right of Way” with the adjacent Harmar Township whereby Harmar Township has agreed to take over the maintenance and other costs associated with the road.

Action:

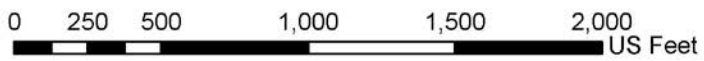


Exhibit RED 16
State Game Land No. 203

**Crone Hollow Road Dedication
to Springdale Township**

**Springdale Township
Allegheny County
Southwest Region**

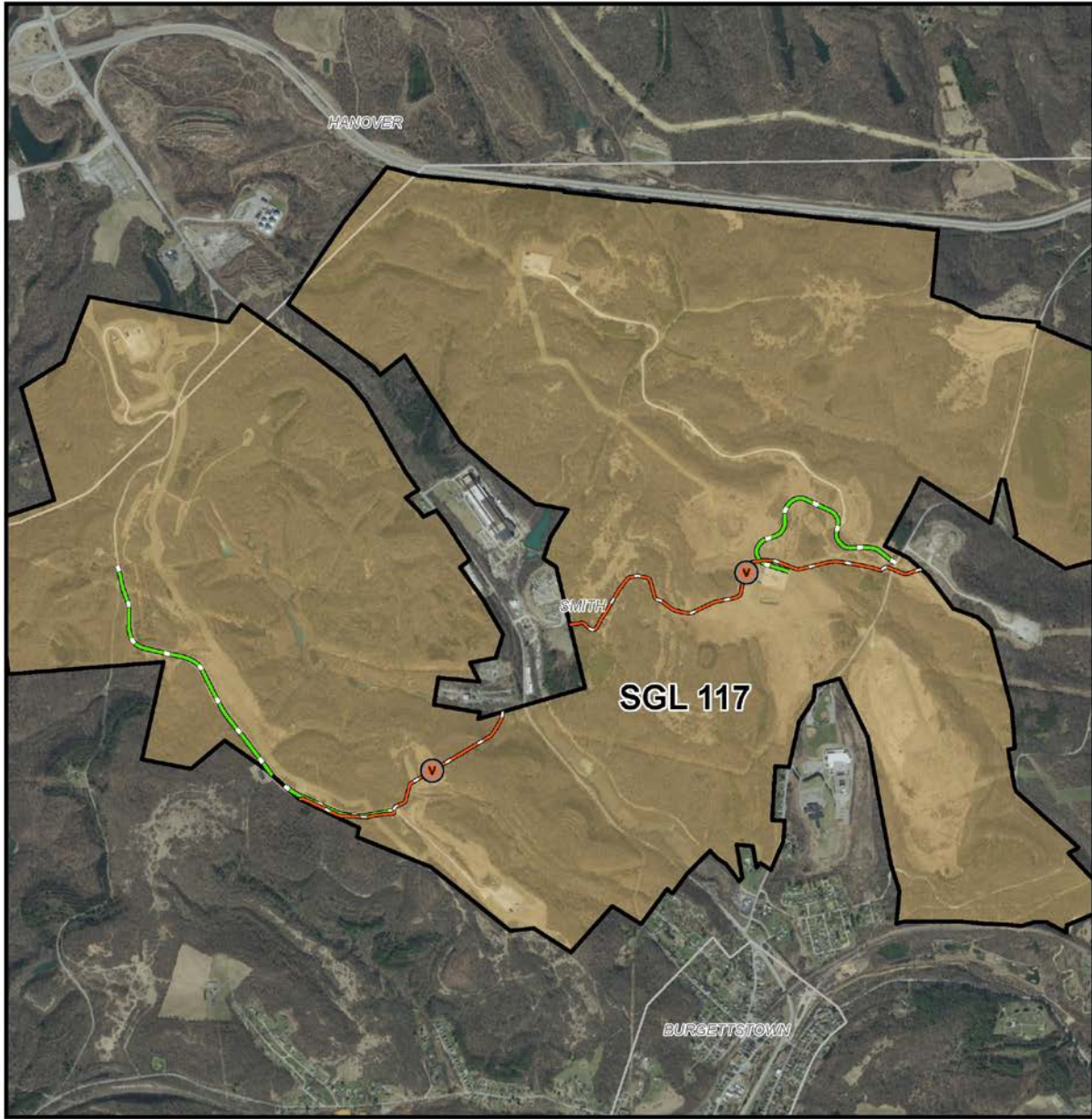
G. Information Items




Notational Vote

Contract L-3803, State Game Land No. 117, Washington County

Commentary: On November 6, 2022, the Board of Commissioners approved, by notational vote, the deposit of \$480,027 into the restricted revenue account to be used for the future purchase of lands to mitigate the temporary loss of wildlife resources and/or recreational values. Range Resources-Appalachia, LLC offered \$480,027 in exchange for a Special Use Permit (SUP) granting the temporary privilege of constructing, operating, maintaining and removing a total of 10,328' of above-ground HDPE waterline and two (2) isolation valves in a 25' wide right-of-way, along with temporary privilege of using and reclaiming a total of 9,658' of existing access roads and 0.38 acre of additional workspace on State Game Land No. 117 in Smith Township, Washington County (Exhibit RED 17). The waterlines will be used to transport flowback water for the completion of natural gas wells outside of the game lands, and the SUP includes conditions to minimize the potential for pollution and impacts to sportsmen and wildlife on the game lands.

Action: This is an informational item only; therefore, no action is required.



-  Permitted Isolation Valves
-  Permitted Waterline in 25' ROW
-  Permitted Access Roads
-  Approximate Municipal Boundaries

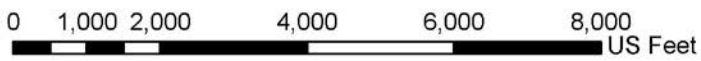


Exhibit RED 17
State Game Land No. 117
 L-3803
Restricted Revenue Account
Deposit in Exchange for Range
Resources-Appalachia, LLC
Special Use Permit Fee
 Smith Township
 Washington County
 Southwest Region

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Next Commission Meeting – April 14 - 15, 2023

Election of Officers

Executive Session, if necessary, will be held immediately following the close of the Commission Meeting.

Adjournment