

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION**



**AGENDA  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA  
January 23, 2021**

*Bryan Burhans*  
Bryan Burhans  
Executive Director

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Pennsylvania Game Commission

Agenda

The Commission Meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission will be held virtually on Saturday, January 23, 2021, beginning at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Commissioners

Charlie E. Fox, President  
Stanley I. Knick, Jr., Vice President  
Michael F. Mitrick, Secretary  
Scott H. Foradora  
Dennis R. Fredericks  
Timothy S. Layton  
Kristen Schnepf-Giger

Approval of Minutes of Commission Meeting held September 26, 2020.

## BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

### PROPOSED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 143.1 and create § 143.5

Commentary:

The Commission currently issues various hunting and furtaking license products to customers in physical form only on the familiar durable yellow stock. New features in the PALS (HuntFishPA) system are expected to go live for the 2021/2022 license year will have the capacity to provide hunters and trappers with a digital versions of its license products by email and through the PALS system. However, current licensing regulations will need to be amended to authorize and define their use. The Commission is proposing to amend § 143.1 and create § 143.5 (relating to definitions; and digital licenses) to define and authorize the use of hunting and furtaking eLicenses. This authorization will also extend to certain permits also sold through the PALS system, such as mentored permits, bobcat permits, range permits, etc.

An eLicense is generally defined as a digital (electronic) copy of a hunting or furtaking license or permit provided to customers in the form of a PDF document. An eLicense will be issued to the hunter or trapper at the time of purchase and will be authorized for use in the same manner and as an alternative to traditional physical license documents. When used, the eLicense will be stored and displayed by the customer on a mobile device such as a smartphone or tablet. The customer will also have the option of printing a copy of eLicense products on their own printer using appropriate paper stock.

Carcass harvest tags will continue to be provided to customers in physical form only on the familiar durable stock. No digital versions of these documents will be issued to customers or authorized for use. Customers that elect to purchase license products online will be provided with digital copies of their license products and thereafter mailed physical carcass harvest tags by first class mail. Customers that elect to purchase license products at an agent location will be issued physical carcass harvest tags at the time of purchase and will also have the opportunity to have digital licenses provided to them electronically when a valid email address is provided. There will be no additional fee for customers to retrieve eLicense products from the Commission's PALS system. However, replacement license fees will still apply where replacement carcass harvest tags are requested or where the customer opts for a physical reprint of license products.

## CHAPTER 143. HUNTING AND FURTKER LICENSES

### Subchapter A. GENERAL

§ 143.1. Definitions.

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

*Agent*--A person appointed under Chapter 27, Subchapter B of the act (relating to agents) who is authorized to issue the licenses provided for in the act and this part.

*Customer ID number*--The unique customer identifier permanently assigned to each customer of the Commission's PALS.

*License*--A physical or digital document issued by the Commission authorizing the holder hunt for, take, kill and possess to certain types of game or wildlife during a specified period.

*PALS*--Pennsylvania Automated Licensing System--The Commission's computer-based automated licensing system that facilitates the purchase and creation of license products at the agent location.

§ 143.5. [~~Reserved~~] Digital hunting and furtaking licenses.

This section applies only to persons that have elected to conduct hunting and furtaking license transactions by electronic means as determined from the context and surrounding circumstances of the acquisition and production of these digital license documents. Upon the Commission establishing a system to distribute and make available digital license documents, holders of these issued digital documents may produce them as required under the act or this part in digital or printed physical form in the same manner as physical printed licenses issued directly by the Commission or any of its agents, subject to the following:

(1) *Digital documents.* Digital license documents issued by the Commission and stored on a personal electronic device must be capable of immediate retrieval and clear display of the digital document to ensure the readability of all license information contained on the digital document, including any bar codes or QR codes. Failure to retrieve and produce this digital document or its physical alternative to any landowner upon whose land that person may be occupying or to any officer whose duty it is to enforce this title shall constitute a violation under section 2711(a)(12) of the act (relating to unlawful acts concerning licenses).

(2) *Printed digital license documents.* Digital license documents issued by the Commission and subsequently reduced to physical form must be printed on paper or another substantially equivalent medium of such quality, color and contrast to clearly display and ensure the readability of all license information contained on the digital document, including any bar codes or QR codes. Failure to produce this printed digital document or its original physical alternative to any landowner upon whose land that person may be occupying or to any officer whose duty it is to enforce this title shall constitute a violation under section 2711(a)(12) of the act (relating to unlawful acts concerning licenses).

(3) *Harvest tags.* The Commission will not issue any digital harvest tags with digital license documents. The Commission or any of its eligible issuing agents will issue harvest

tags directly to the holder in physical form only. No further reproduction of these physical documents, digital or otherwise, is authorized to satisfy tagging or marking requirements under the act or this part, except as may be authorized by section 2710 of the act (relating to replacement of lost licenses). Section 2323(b) of the act (relating to licenses issued without tags) shall not be construed to apply to digitally issued license documents supplemented by the issuance of physical harvest tags.

(4) *Electronic Transaction Act.* The Electronic Transactions Act, 73 P.S. § 2260.101, *et seq.*, as amended, shall apply to any automated transaction conducted under this section. It is specifically intended that any license acquired and used in a digital format under the authorizations of this section is deemed to be electronically signed and certified by the holder of the document. Digital license documents issued by the Commission and subsequently reduced to physical form shall be signed and certified by the holder in the same manner as physical printed licenses issued directly by the Commission or any of its agents.

Action:

B. Amend 58 Pa. Code §§ 143.45 and 143.52

Commentary:

The term 'personal limit' refers to the number of antlerless deer licenses a hunter may possess at any given time. Current rules differ between Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) that are generally within and those that are outside areas defined as special regulation areas (WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D). Persons hunting outside of WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D are currently restricted to acquiring a maximum personal limit of up to three (3) antlerless licenses. Persons hunting within WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D currently have no personal limit on the number of antlerless licenses they may acquire from WMUs with a remaining antlerless license allocation. The allowance of the 'unlimited' personal limit in WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D was originally intended to ensure that the quota of antlerless licenses set by the Commission for WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D was issued to the fullest extent possible in an effort to achieve deer management goals. The 'unlimited' personal limit does not permit a person to obtain antlerless licenses beyond a given WMU's annual allocation of antlerless licenses.

The Commission recently observed that, as of mid-November, there were still well over 16,000 antlerless deer licenses available in WMUs 2A and 4A. Persons hunting in these areas where significant numbers of antlerless deer licenses have remained unsold late into the deer hunting seasons have questioned whether the current personal limit continues to make sense. More to the point, these hunters have inquired whether it makes more sense for the Commission to ensure that the quota of antlerless licenses allocated to the various WMUs across the state are issued to the fullest extent possible to achieve the goals behind the original allocations in the same manner as in WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D. The Commission agrees with this approach. The Commission is proposing to amend §§ 143.45 and 143.52 (relating to completing and submitting applications and procedure for unlimited antlerless licenses) to authorize unlimited over-the-counter sales of antlerless licenses in any open (unexhausted) WMU on the second Monday in September until such quota(s) are exhausted.

The proposed amendments will maintain the current conventional pre-season application three-round structure for mailed antlerless deer license applications. This unchanged process will continue to ensure equitable and fair distribution of antlerless licenses for hunters in the WMUs of their choice, assuming quotas remain available within these WMUs at each round of distribution. However, the proposed amendments will expand the availability of unlimited over-the-counter sales of antlerless licenses to any and all WMUs that have an available quota remaining on the second Monday in September, not just WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D.

For most hunters, this means that they would be authorized to purchase their fourth antlerless license over-the-counter starting on the second Monday in September as long as a quota remains available. For other hunters late to the antlerless license purchase process, a maximum of four antlerless



licenses would be authorized for purchase over-the-counter starting on the second Monday in September, again assuming a quota remains available. One important facet to this new structure will be a restriction limiting all hunters to possessing no more than four active antlerless licenses at any given time. Purchase of a fifth or subsequent antlerless deer license will require a hunter exhaust and report online the harvest of one or more of their previously issued antlerless deer licenses before becoming eligible to purchase additional antlerless deer licenses. Over-the-counter sales of antlerless deer licenses will continue in this manner within each WMU until the quota assigned to each WMU is exhausted.

This new method maintains equitable and fair the distribution of antlerless licenses, and importantly, also helps ensure that the quota of antlerless licenses set by the Commission for each WMU is issued to the fullest extent possible, thus supporting its deer management goals. This new process will simplify the antlerless deer license regulations by applying the same distribution rules to all WMUs across the board. The Commission also expects to see the collateral benefit of increased harvest reporting rates with this new process due to the harvest reporting requirements applied to the issuance of subsequent antlerless deer licenses. Lastly, the Commission also sees the potential for antlerless deer license sales to stretch into regular firearms deer seasons for some WMUs, thus making some antlerless deer licenses available to hunters purchasing their hunting license later in the hunting season.

## CHAPTER 143. HUNTING AND FURTKER LICENSES

### Subchapter A. GENERAL

§ 143.45. Completing and submitting applications.

(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 ~~[are]~~ remain available in any wildlife management unit beginning on the ~~[first]~~ second Monday in ~~[October]~~ September.

\* \* \* \* \*

§ 143.52. Procedure for unlimited antlerless licenses.

(a) ~~[The Executive Director will designate by April 30 of each year those wildlife management units where hunters will be allowed to apply for an unlimited number of~~

antlerless deer licenses] 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) ~~[Beginning on the first Monday in August residents and nonresidents of this Commonwealth shall be eligible to apply by mail to a county treasurer for an unlimited number of antlerless deer licenses for designated units]~~ 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 three or less active and unfulfilled antlerless licenses on their license profile.

(2) Once an applicant has been issued a fourth 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 four cumulative active and unfulfilled antlerless licenses in their PALS license profile.

(c) ~~[Beginning on the fourth Monday in August, county treasurers shall accept antlerless applications over the counter for designated units from residents and nonresidents of this Commonwealth and may immediately issue licenses to applicants]~~ The authorizations of this section will terminate automatically for each wildlife management unit once its antlerless license allocation quota is exhausted.

Action:

## BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

### PROPOSED RULE MAKING

#### A. 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 2021-2022 license year. The 2021-2022 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.

Proposed Sunday hunting dates are similar to those used in 2020-21. However, expansions of Sunday opportunity are proposed in that the Sundays during the archery deer and firearms bear seasons would also be open for other species (except migratory game birds and wild turkey) with seasons encompassing those dates. These expansions of Sunday opportunity are the only changes proposed for small game and furbearer seasons.

With wild turkey population trends declining in many wildlife management units, closure of the fall season in WMU 5A and reductions in season length for 14 other WMUs are recommended in accordance with Wild Turkey Management Plan guidelines to increase hen survival.

For deer, a statewide 14-day concurrent antlered and antlerless firearms season is recommended to simplify regulations and provide increased opportunity, especially for younger hunters. Also, the extended (post-Christmas) firearms season is proposed to be set at the WMU level (2B, 5C, and 5D) rather than at the county level to simplify regulations, given that antlerless harvests are evenly distributed throughout these WMUs regardless of firearms restrictions.

Minor expansions of archery bear hunting opportunity are proposed in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C, and 5D. Other black bear season recommendations are similar to those in 2020.

The antlerless designation is proposed to be removed from the late elk season to provide the Commission the flexibility to issue antlered elk licenses for this season, if and when appropriate. Specific license allocation recommendations for all elk seasons will be provided in April.

ANNEX "A"

§ 139.4 Seasons and bag limits for the license year.

2021-2022 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) <sup>1</sup> <i>Eligible Junior Hunters only</i> , with or without the required junior license	Sept. 11	Sept. 25	6	18
<i>Squirrel</i> – (Combined species) <sup>2</sup>	Sept. 11 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 and Nov. 15 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 and Nov. 22 and Dec. 13 and Dec. 27	Nov. 13 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 Nov. 20 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 Nov. 26 Dec. 24 Feb. 28, 2022	6	18
<i>Ruffed Grouse</i> <sup>2</sup>	Oct. 16 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 and Nov. 15 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 and Nov. 22 and Dec. 13	Nov. 13 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 Nov. 20 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 Nov. 26 Dec. 24	2	6
<i>Rabbit, Cottontail</i> – <sup>1</sup> <i>Eligible Junior Hunters only</i> , with or without the required junior license	Oct. 2	Oct. 16	4	12
<i>Rabbit, Cottontail</i> <sup>2</sup>	Oct. 16 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 and Nov. 15 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 and Nov. 22 and Dec. 13 and Dec. 27	Nov. 13 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 Nov. 20 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 Nov. 26 Dec. 24 Feb. 28, 2022	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> <sup>1</sup>	As authorized by the Executive Order			
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant – Male or Female</i> <sup>1</sup> <i>Eligible Junior Hunters only</i> , with or without the required junior license	Oct. 9	Oct. 16	2	6
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant – Male or Female</i> <sup>2</sup>	Oct. 23 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 and Nov. 15 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 and Nov. 22 and Dec. 13 and Dec. 27	Nov. 13 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 Nov. 20 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 Nov. 26 Dec. 24 Feb. 28, 2022	2	6
<i>Bobwhite Quail</i> <sup>2</sup>	Oct. 23 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 and Nov. 15 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 and Nov. 22 and Dec. 13 and Dec. 27	Nov. 13 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 Nov. 20 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 Nov. 26 Dec. 24 Feb. 28, 2022	8	24
<i>Hare (Snowshoe Rabbits) or Varying Hare</i> <sup>1</sup>	Dec. 27	Jan. 1, 2022	1	3
<i>Woodchuck (Groundhog)</i> <sup>2</sup>	July 1 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 and Nov. 15 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 and Nov. 22 and Dec. 13	Nov. 13 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 Nov. 20 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 Nov. 26 June 30, 2022	Unlimited	

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Season Limit
<i>Turkey, Fall - Male or Female</i> <sup>1</sup>			1	1
WMU 2B (Shotgun, Bow & Arrow only)	Oct. 30 Nov. 24	and Nov. 19 Nov. 26		
WMU 1A, 1B, 4A, 4B, 4D, and 4E	Oct. 30	Nov. 6		
WMUs 2A, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, and 4C	Oct. 30	Nov. 13		
WMU 2C, 2D, and 2E	Oct. 30 Nov. 24	and Nov. 13 Nov. 26		
WMU 5B	Nov. 2	Nov. 4		
WMUs 5A, 5C, and 5D	Closed to fall turkey hunting			
<i>Turkey, Spring</i> <sup>1</sup> <i>Bearded Bird only,</i> <i>Eligible Junior Hunters only,</i> with the required junior license	Apr. 23, 2022	Apr. 23, 2022	1	1
<i>Turkey, Spring</i> <sup>1,4</sup> <i>Bearded Bird only</i>	April 30, 2022 and May 16, 2022	May 14, 2022 and May 31, 2022	1	2
			May be hunted ½ hour before sunrise to 12 noon	
			May be hunted ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	

#### **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.<sup>1</sup>

<b>Species</b>	<b>First Day</b>	<b>Last Day</b>	<b>Daily Limit</b>	<b>Field Possession Limit After Second Day</b>
<i>Crow</i> <sup>3</sup> (Hunting permitted on Friday, Saturday and Sunday only)	July 2	Apr. 10, 2022		Unlimited
<i>Starling and English Sparrow</i> <sup>3</sup>	No closed season except during the regular firearms deer seasons.			Unlimited

**FALCONRY**

<b>Species</b>	<b>First Day</b>	<b>Last Day</b>	<b>Daily Limit</b>	<b>Field Possession Limit After Second Day</b>
<i>Squirrel</i> – (Combined species) <sup>2</sup>	Sept. 1 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 and Nov. 15 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 and Nov. 22 and Dec. 13	Nov. 13 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 Nov. 20 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 Nov. 26 Mar. 31, 2022	6	18
<i>Quail</i> <sup>2</sup>	Sept. 1 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 and Nov. 15 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 and Nov. 22 and Dec. 13	Nov. 13 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 Nov. 20 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 Nov. 26 Mar. 31, 2022	8	24
<i>Ruffed Grouse</i> <sup>2</sup>	Sept. 1 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 and Nov. 15 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 and Nov. 22 and Dec. 13	Nov. 13 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 Nov. 20 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 Nov. 26 Mar. 31, 2022	2	6

*FALCONRY – (Continued)*

<b>Species</b>	<b>First Day</b>	<b>Last Day</b>	<b>Daily Limit</b>	<b>Field Possession Limit After Second Day</b>
<i>Cottontail Rabbits</i> <sup>2</sup>	Sept. 1	Nov. 13	4	12
	and			
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14		
	and			
	Nov. 15	Nov. 20		
	and			
Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21			
and				
Nov. 22	Nov. 26			
and				
Dec. 13	Mar. 31, 2022			
<i>Snowshoe or Varying Hare</i> <sup>2</sup>	Sept. 1	Nov. 13	1	3
	and			
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14		
	and			
	Nov. 15	Nov. 20		
	and			
Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21			
and				
Nov. 22	Nov. 26			
and				
Dec. 13	Mar. 31, 2022			
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant - Male</i> <sup>2</sup> <i>and Female</i> (Combined)	Sept. 1	Nov. 13	2	6
	and			
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14		
	and			
	Nov. 15	Nov. 20		
	and			
Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21			
and				
Nov. 22	Nov. 26			
and				
Dec. 13	Mar. 31, 2022			

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



**WHITE-TAILED DEER**

<b>Species</b>	<b>First Day</b>	<b>Last Day</b>	<b>Season Limit</b>
<b>Deer, Archery (Antlered &amp; Antlerless)</b> <sup>2,5</sup> With the required archery license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Sept. 18	Nov. 13	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14	
	Nov. 15	Nov. 20	
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21	
	Nov. 22	Nov. 26	
	Dec. 27	Jan. 29, 2022	
<b>Deer, Archery (Antlered &amp; Antlerless)</b> <sup>2,5</sup> 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	Oct. 2	Nov. 13	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14 and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14	
	Nov. 15	Nov. 19	
	Dec. 27	Jan. 17, 2022	
<b>Deer, Muzzleloading (Antlerless only)</b> <sup>1</sup> With the required muzzleloading license	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<b>Deer, Special firearms (Antlerless only)</b> Only Junior and Senior License Holders, <sup>6</sup> 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. 21	Oct. 23	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<b>Deer, Regular Firearms (Antlered &amp; Antlerless)</b> <sup>2,5</sup> Statewide	Nov. 27	Nov. 27	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 28 and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 28	
	Nov. 29	Dec. 11	
<b>Deer, Flintlock (Antlered or Antlerless)</b> <sup>1,5</sup> 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. 27	Jan. 17, 2022	One antlered or one antlerless deer, plus an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<b>Deer, Flintlock (Antlered or Antlerless)</b> <sup>1,5</sup> With the required muzzleloading license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Dec. 27	Jan. 29, 2022	One antlered or one antlerless deer, plus an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

**WHITE-TAILED DEER – (Continued)**

<b>Species</b>	<b>First Day</b>	<b>Last Day</b>	<b>Limit</b>
<i>Deer, Extended Regular firearms (Antlerless)</i> <sup>1</sup> WMUs 2B, 5C, and 5D	Dec. 27	Jan. 29, 2022	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Antlerless</i> <sup>1</sup> (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**

<b>Species</b>	<b>First Day</b>	<b>Last Day</b>	<b>Season Limit</b>
<i>Bear, Archery</i> <sup>2,7</sup> WMUs 2B, 5C, and 5D	Sept. 18	Nov. 13	1
	and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14	
	and Nov. 15	Nov. 20	
	and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21	
	and Nov. 22	Nov. 26	
<i>Bear, Archery</i> <sup>2,7</sup> WMU 5B	Oct. 2	Nov. 13	1
	and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14	
	and Nov. 15	Nov. 19	
<i>Bear, Archery</i> <sup>1,7</sup> WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 5A	Oct. 16	Nov. 6	1
<i>Bear, Muzzleloader</i> <sup>1,7</sup> (Statewide)	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	1
<i>Bear, Special firearms</i> <sup>7</sup> Only Junior and Senior License Holders <sup>6</sup> , 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 United States Coast Guard, with required antlerless license (Statewide)	Oct. 21	Oct. 23	1

**BLACK BEAR – (Continued)**

<b>Species</b>	<b>First Day</b>	<b>Last Day</b>	<b>Season Limit</b>
<i>Bear, Regular Firearms</i> <sup>2,7</sup> (Statewide)	Nov. 20 and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 and Nov. 22	Nov. 20 Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21 Nov. 23	1
<i>Bear, Extended firearms</i> <sup>1,7</sup> WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C, and 5D	Nov. 29	Dec. 11	1
<i>Bear, Extended firearms</i> <sup>1,7</sup> WMUs 1B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 5A	Nov. 29	Dec. 4	1

**ELK**

<b>Species</b>	<b>First Day</b>	<b>Last Day</b>	<b>Season Limit</b>
<i>Elk, Special Conservation Tag</i> <sup>1,8</sup> <i>and Special-License Tag</i> <sup>1,8</sup> (Antlered and Antlerless)	Sept. 1	Nov. 6	1
<i>Elk, Archery</i> <sup>1,8</sup>	Sept. 11	Sept. 25	1
<i>Elk, Regular</i> <sup>8</sup> (Antlered and Antlerless)	Nov. 1	Nov. 6	1
<i>Elk, Late</i> <sup>1,8</sup>	Jan. 1, 2022	Jan. 8, 2022	1

**FUR TAKING – TRAPPING**

<b>Species</b>	<b>First Day</b>	<b>Last Day</b>	<b>Daily Limit</b>	<b>Season Limit</b>
<i>Mink and Muskrat</i>	Nov. 20	Jan. 9, 2022		Unlimited
<i>Beaver</i>	Dec. 18	Mar. 31, 2022		
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
<i>Coyote, Fox, Opossum, Raccoon, Striped Skunk and Weasel</i>	Oct. 23	Feb. 20, 2022		Unlimited
<i>Coyote and Fox</i> Use of cable restraint devices authorized with required certification	Dec. 26	Feb. 20, 2022		Unlimited

**FUR TAKING – TRAPPING – (Continued)**

<b>Bobcat, with required bobcat permit</b> WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Dec. 18	Jan. 9, 2022	1	1
<b>Fisher, with required fisher permit</b> WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Dec. 18	Jan. 2, 2022	1	1
<b>River Otter, with required otter permit</b> WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3C and 3D	Feb. 12, 2022	Feb. 19, 2022	1	1

**FUR TAKING - HUNTING**

<b>Species</b>	<b>First Day</b>	<b>Last Day</b>	<b>Daily Limit</b>	<b>Season Limit</b>
<b>Coyote - (Outside of any big game season) <sup>3</sup></b>	May be taken with a hunting license or a furtaker's license.		Unlimited	
<b>Coyote - (During any big game season)</b>	May be taken while lawfully hunting big game or with a furtaker's license.		Unlimited	
<b>Opossum, Striped Skunk, Weasel <sup>2</sup></b>	July 1	Nov. 13	Unlimited	
	and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14		
	and Nov. 15	Nov. 20		
	and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21		
	and Nov. 22	Nov. 26		
	and Dec. 13	June 30, 2022		
<b>Fox <sup>3</sup></b>	Oct. 23	Feb. 19, 2022	Unlimited	
<b>Raccoon <sup>2</sup></b>	Oct. 23	Nov. 13	Unlimited	
	and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14		
	and Nov. 15	Nov. 20		
	and Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21		
	and Nov. 22	Nov. 26		
	and Dec. 13	Feb. 19, 2022		
<b>Bobcat, with required bobcat permit <sup>1</sup></b> WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Jan. 8, 2022	Feb. 2, 2022	1	1

***FUR TAKING - HUNTING – (Continued)***

<b><i>Porcupine</i></b> <sup>2</sup>	Oct. 9	and	Nov. 13	3	10
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14	and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 14		
	Nov. 15	and	Nov. 20		
	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21	and	Sun. <sup>3</sup> , Nov. 21		
	Nov. 22		Jan. 29, 2022		

***No open seasons on other wild birds or wild mammals.***

<sup>1</sup> No hunting on Sunday authorized. *See* 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303.

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

<sup>3</sup> Hunting on Sunday is authorized. *See* 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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

<sup>6</sup> Includes residents 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).

<sup>7</sup> Only one bear may be taken during the hunting license year with the required bear license.

<sup>8</sup> Only one elk may be taken during the hunting license year with the required elk license.

**Action:**

B. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 147.673

Commentary: Section 147.673 (relating to Eligibility and application for DMAP) currently provides an application deadline of May 1<sup>st</sup>. Reviews by external users and Commission staff identified a deadline of May 1<sup>st</sup> as too early. For many users of DMAP, the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline does not allow adequate time to collect post-winter data, analyze the data, and incorporate those results into DMAP applications. In addition, a later deadline will allow more time for landowners to prepare and submit applications. The Commission is proposing to amend § 147.673 to make July 1 the deadline for DMAP applications.

CHAPTER 147. SPECIAL PERMITS

Subchapter R. DEER CONTROL

DEER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PERMITS

§ 147.673. Eligibility and application for DMAP.

(a) Owners or lessees of private land, hunting clubs or authorized officers or employees of political subdivisions or government agencies are eligible to make application for a DMAP.

(1) Applications shall be submitted on a form provided by the Commission to a regional office by ~~May~~ July 1 immediately preceding the first fall deer season and include the name of the owner, lessee, political subdivision or government agency that is applying for the DMAP and the name and address of the contact person for the DMAP as well as other information required on the application.

\* \* \* \* \*

Action:

C. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 141.45.

Commentary:

Manually operated rifles, including both centerfire and rimfire, are listed as permitted devices for use by hunters during the fall turkey seasons in all WMUs with an open fall turkey season excluding those portions found within the Special Regulations Areas designated in 58 Pa. Code § 141.1 (relating to special regulations areas). Notwithstanding their permitted use, the Commission has observed that very few hunters hunt during the fall turkey season with a rifle. The 2020 general turkey hunter survey showed 14% of respondents primarily used rifles to hunt fall turkey, whereas 33% of the statewide harvest was with a rifle, but this varied by WMU (19% in 1A to 52% in 3A). Most fall turkey hunters (70%) primarily used shotguns (53% of harvest), 9% used crossbows (10% of harvest), 8% used vertical bows (4% of harvest) and a few used muzzleloaders or handguns (<1% of harvest). Were it assumed that all rifle hunters in 2020 used a shotgun and had the same efficiency as other shotgun hunters, fall harvest could decrease statewide by approximately 20%, but that figure would vary by WMU.

The Commission's turkey management plan provides guidance to adjust fall season lengths by one week at a time to manage turkey population trends. For example, when populations are declining, the plan calls for fall season length to be reduced by one week. The Commission has observed evidence of declining turkey populations in 15 of 23 WMUs and has therefore proposed season length reductions in those areas. However, the Commission is also investigating alternative methods of stabilizing fall turkey harvest numbers without focusing solely on further reductions in hunting opportunity as measured by season length. The Commission has determined that the elimination of rifles during fall turkey season may aid in this goal. Based on the results from the 2020 Turkey Hunter Survey, the Commission observed that the elimination of rifles during the fall turkey season could reduce fall harvest by as much as 20%. Depending on the actual impact of removing rifles from fall turkey seasons, the Commission anticipates that recent fall turkey season length reductions could eventually be reversed and more hunting opportunities added. The Commission is proposing to amend § 141.45 (relating to turkey) to eliminate the use of rifles during the fall turkey season.

## CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

### Subchapter C. BIG GAME

58 Pa. Code § 141.45. Turkey seasons.

(a) *Fall turkey season.*

(1) *Permitted devices.* It is lawful to hunt turkey during the fall turkey season with any of the following devices:

(i) ~~[A manually operated rifle or handgun that propels single-projectile ammunition.~~

(ii) A manually operated or semiautomatic, centerfire shotgun or muzzleloading shotgun that propels single-projectile ammunition or multiple projectile shotgun ammunition no larger than # 4 lead, # 2 steel, or # 4 of any other composition or alloy of nontoxic shot approved by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or an authorized representative under 50 CFR 20.134 (relating to approval of nontoxic shot types and shot coatings). A centerfire shotgun's magazine capacity may not exceed two rounds. The shotgun's total aggregate ammunition capacity may not exceed three rounds.

~~(iii)~~ (ii) A muzzleloading rifle or handgun that propels single-projectile ammunition.

~~(iv)~~ (iii) *A bow and arrow.* A bow must have a peak draw weight of at least 35 pounds. An arrow must be equipped with a broadhead that has an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 inch and may not exceed 3.25 inches in length.

~~(v)~~ (iv) *A crossbow and bolt.* A crossbow must have a peak draw weight of at least 125 pounds. A bolt must be equipped with a broadhead that has an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 inch and may not exceed 3.25 inches in length.

\* \* \* \* \*

Action:



## **ADOPTED RULE MAKING**

D. Amend 58 Pa. Code §§ 137.34 and 137.35.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Commission proposed at its September 26, 2020, meeting to amend §§ 137.34 (relating to Chronic Wasting Disease and emergency authority of Director) and 137.35 (relating to Chronic Wasting Disease restrictions) to expand the authority of the Executive Director to issue executive orders to address additional diseases and species of wildlife other than only Chronic Wasting Disease as it relates to only cervids. The Commission also proposed to amend § 137.35 to define the term 'Established Area,' restrict the movement of high-risk parts outside from Established Areas and further expand the ban on importation of high-risk parts to all areas outside the Commonwealth.

Action:

ANNEX “A”

CHAPTER 137. WILDLIFE

§ 137.34. Wildlife disease and emergency authority of Director.

(a) The Director has emergency authority to take actions to mitigate risk factors and to determine the prevalence and geographic distribution of wildlife diseases, if the Director concludes that the introduction or spread of wildlife diseases poses a threat to human, domestic and wild animal, and environmental health and safety within or adjacent to this Commonwealth.

(1) The Director has emergency authority to:

(i) Institute importation and exportation restrictions to mitigate disease transmission risk factors.

(ii) Define and designate Disease Management Areas (DMAs) in this Commonwealth.

(2) The Director has emergency authority within designated DMAs to:

(i) Allow the taking of wildlife without regard to established seasons and bag limits and methods of take.

(ii) Require mandatory disease testing or disposal of wildlife or wildlife parts.

(iii) Prohibit the movement of high-risk wildlife parts.

(iv) Prohibit the rehabilitation of wildlife.

(v) Prohibit the use and possession of wildlife products.

(vi) Prohibit the feeding of wildlife.

(vii) Prohibit the issuance of new permits and allow the suspension or modification of existing permits to possess or transport live wildlife.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), the emergency authority of the Director will not be construed to extend to:

(i) The regulation of captive wildlife held under 3 Pa.C.S. Chapter 23 (relating to Domestic Animal Law) or the requirements of a lawful quarantine order issued by the Department of Agriculture.

(ii) The unilateral regulation of wildlife concurrently managed by the Commonwealth and the Federal government.

(b) It is unlawful for a person to violate a provision of an Executive Order issued by the Director under the authority of this section. A person violating this section will, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay the fine prescribed in the act.

§ 137.35. Chronic Wasting Disease restrictions.

(a) *Importation.*

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

(2) 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.

(b) *Exportation.*

(1) 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) 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) 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 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.

(4) All cervids harvested, taken or killed within any Disease Management or Established Area established within 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) It is unlawful to rehabilitate wild, free-ranging cervids within any Disease Management or Established Area established within this Commonwealth.

(6) 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) 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) 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.

(c) *Nonapplicability.*

(1) Nothing in this section shall be construed to extend to the regulation of captive cervids held under 3 Pa.C.S. Chapter 23 (relating to Domestic Animal Law) or the requirements of a lawful quarantine order issued by the Department of Agriculture.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the Commission's authority to establish or enforce additional importation, exportation, possession, transportation, or testing requirements or restrictions on cervid parts or materials under the authority of § 137.34 (relating to wildlife disease and emergency authority of Director).

(d) *Authority to designate.* The Executive Director has the authority to designate and publish Disease Management and Established Areas established within this Commonwealth. The Executive Director will publish this list and any updates in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

(e) *Definitions.* The following words and terms, when used in this section, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

*CWD*—Chronic Wasting Disease—The transmissible spongiform encephalopathy of cervids.

*Cervid*--Any member of the family Cervidae (deer), specifically including, but not limited to, the following species: black-tailed deer; caribou; elk; fallow deer; moose; mule deer; red deer; sika deer; white-tailed deer; and any hybrids thereof.

*Disease Management Area*--Any geographic area of this Commonwealth influenced by a positive case of CWD and targeted by the Commission for CWD management activities.

*Established Area*--Any geographic area of this Commonwealth that is within a Disease Management Area and has a higher concentration of disease prevalence that is targeted by the Commission for enhanced CWD management activities.

*Feeding*--The act of placing any artificial or natural substance for the use or consumption of wild, free-ranging cervids on an annual, seasonal or emergency basis.

*High-risk parts or materials*--Any parts or materials, derived from cervids, which are known to accumulate abnormal prions. This includes any of the following: head (including brain, tonsils, eyes and lymph nodes); spinal cord/backbone (vertebra); spleen; skull plate with attached antlers, if visible brain or spinal cord material is present; cape, if visible brain or spinal cord material is present; upper canine teeth, if root structure or other soft material is present; any object or article containing visible brain or spinal cord material; and brain-tanned hide.

*Non-high-risk parts or materials*—Any parts or materials, derived from cervids, which are not known to accumulate abnormal prions. This includes any of the following: meat, without the backbone; skull plate with attached antlers, if no visible brain or spinal cord material is present; tanned hide or rawhide with no visible brain or spinal cord material present; cape, if no visible brain or spinal cord material is present; upper canine teeth, if no root structure or other soft material is present; and taxidermy mounts, if no visible brain or spinal cord material is present.

(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.

**BUREAU OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION**

**PROPOSED RULE MAKING**

A. 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 2021-2022 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"

<b>HUNTING HOURS TABLE FOR JUNE 27, 2021 THROUGH JULY 2, 2022</b>					
Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.	Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.
June 27 - July 3	5:07	9:03	Jan. 2 - 8	6:52	5:23
July 4 - 10	5:11	9:01	Jan. 9 - 15	6:50	5:24
July 11 - 17	5:16	8:57	Jan. 16 - 22	6:47	5:31
July 18 - 24	5:22	8:52	Jan. 23 - 29	6:46	5:39
July 25 - 31	5:28	8:45	Jan.30 - Feb. 5	6:41	5:48
Aug. 1 - 7	5:35	8:37	Feb. 6 - 12	6:34	5:56
Aug. 8 - 14	5:42	8:28	Feb. 13 - 19	6:26	6:04
Aug. 15 - 21	5:48	8:18	Feb. 20 - 26	6:17	6:12
Aug. 22 - 28	5:55	8:08	Feb. 27 - March 5	6:07	6:20
Aug. 29 -Sept. 4	6:02	7:57	March 6 - 12	5:56	6:28
Sept. 5 - 11	6:08	7:45	March 13 - 19* Begins	6:45	7:35
Sept. 12 - 18	6:15	7:34	March 20 - 26	6:34	7:43
Sept. 19 - 25	6:21	7:22	March 27 - Apr. 2	6:23	7:50
Sept. 26 - Oct. 2	6:28	7:11	April 3 - 9	6:11	7:57
Oct. 3 - 9	6:35	7:00	April 10 - 16	6:00	8:04
Oct. 10 - 16	6:42	6:49	April 17 - 23	5:50	8:11
Oct. 17 - 23	6:50	6:39	April 24 - 30	5:40	8:24
Oct. 24 - 30	6:58	6:30	May 1 - 7	5:31	8:25
Oct. 31 - Nov. 6	7:06	6:22	May 8 - 14	5:23	8:32
Nov. 7 - 13 ** Ends	6:07	5:21	May 15 - 21	5:15	8:39
Nov. 14 - 20	6:22	5:11	May 22 - 28	5:10	8:45
Nov. 21 - 27	6:29	5:07	May 29 - June 4	5:05	8:51
Nov. 28 - Dec. 4	6:36	5:05	June 5 - 11	5:01	8:56
Dec. 5 - 11	6:42	5:05	June 12 - 18	5:02	9:00
Dec. 12 - 18	6:47	5:08	June 19 - 25	5:03	9:02
Dec. 19 - 25	6:51	5:08	June 26 - July 2	5:06	9:03
Dec. 26 - Jan. 1	6:52	5:14	Daylight Saving Time Begins* - Ends**		

**MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING HOURS TABLE  
2021-2022**

Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.	Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.
June 27 - July 3	5:07	8:33	Jan. 2 - 8	6:52	4:53
July 4 - 10	5:11	8:31	Jan. 9 - 15	6:50	4:54
July 11 - 17	5:16	8:27	Jan. 16 - 22	6:47	5:01
July 18 - 24	5:22	8:22	Jan. 23 - 29	6:46	5:09
July 25 - 31	5:28	8:15	Jan. 30 - Feb. 5	6:41	5:18
Aug. 1 - 7	5:35	8:07	Feb. 6 - 12	6:34	5:26
Aug. 8 - 14	5:42	7:58	Feb. 13 - 19	6:26	5:34
Aug. 15 - 21	5:48	7:48	Feb. 20 - 26	6:17	5:42
Aug. 22 - 28	5:55	7:38	Feb. 27 - March 5	6:07	5:50
Aug. 29 - Sept. 4	6:02	7:27	March 6 - 12	5:56	5:58
Sept. 5 - 11	6:08	7:15	March 13 - 19 * Begins	6:45	7:05
Sept. 12 - 18	6:15	7:04	March 20 - 26	6:34	7:13
Sept. 19 - 25	6:21	6:52	March 27 - April 2	6:23	7:20
Sept. 26 - Oct. 2	6:28	6:41	April 3 - 9	6:11	7:27
Oct. 3 - 9	6:35	6:30	April 10 - 16	6:00	7:34
Oct. 10 - 16	6:42	6:19	April 17 - 23	5:50	7:41
Oct. 17 - 23	6:50	6:09	April 24 - 30	5:40	7:54
Oct. 24 - 30	6:58	6:00	May 1 - 7	5:31	7:56
Oct. 31 - Nov. 6	7:06	5:52	May 8 - 14	5:23	8:02
Nov. 7 - 13 ** Ends	6:07	4:51	May 15 - 21	5:15	8:09
Nov. 14 - 20	6:22	4:41	May 22 - 28	5:10	8:15
Nov. 21 - 27	6:29	4:37	May 29 - June 4	5:05	8:21
Nov. 28 - Dec. 4	6:36	4:35	June 5 - 11	5:01	8:26
Dec. 5 - 11	6:42	4:35	June 12 - 18	5:02	8:30
Dec. 12 - 18	6:47	4:38	June 19 - 25	5:03	8:32
Dec. 19 - 25	6:51	4:38	June 26 - July 2	5:06	8:33
Dec. 26 - Jan. 1	6:52	4:44	Daylight Saving Time Begins* Ends**		

Action:



- B. Amend 58 Pa. Code §§ 143.203-143.203a and 143.206 and create §§ 139.18 and 143.203b.

Commentary:

The Commission has identified that current regulations concerning elk licenses do not adequately describe the three available elk licenses and their authorized uses. Furthermore, current regulations do not even define the extent and location of the elk management area or elk hunt zones. The Commission is proposing to amend §§ 143.203-143.203a and 143.206 (relating to random drawing elk licenses; special elk conservation license auction elk license; and validity of elk licenses) and create §§ 139.18 and 143.203b (relating to elk management area and hunt zones; and special-license fundraiser elk license) to define the elk management area and elk hunt zones, better delineate and describe the three available elk licenses and, lastly, close all elk hunting in any elk hunt zone that does not receive an allocation for a given hunting license year.

CHAPTER 139. SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

Subchapter A. GENERAL

§ 139.18. Elk management area and hunt zones.

(a) The elk management area is broad geographical range used for management of the Commonwealth's elk population.

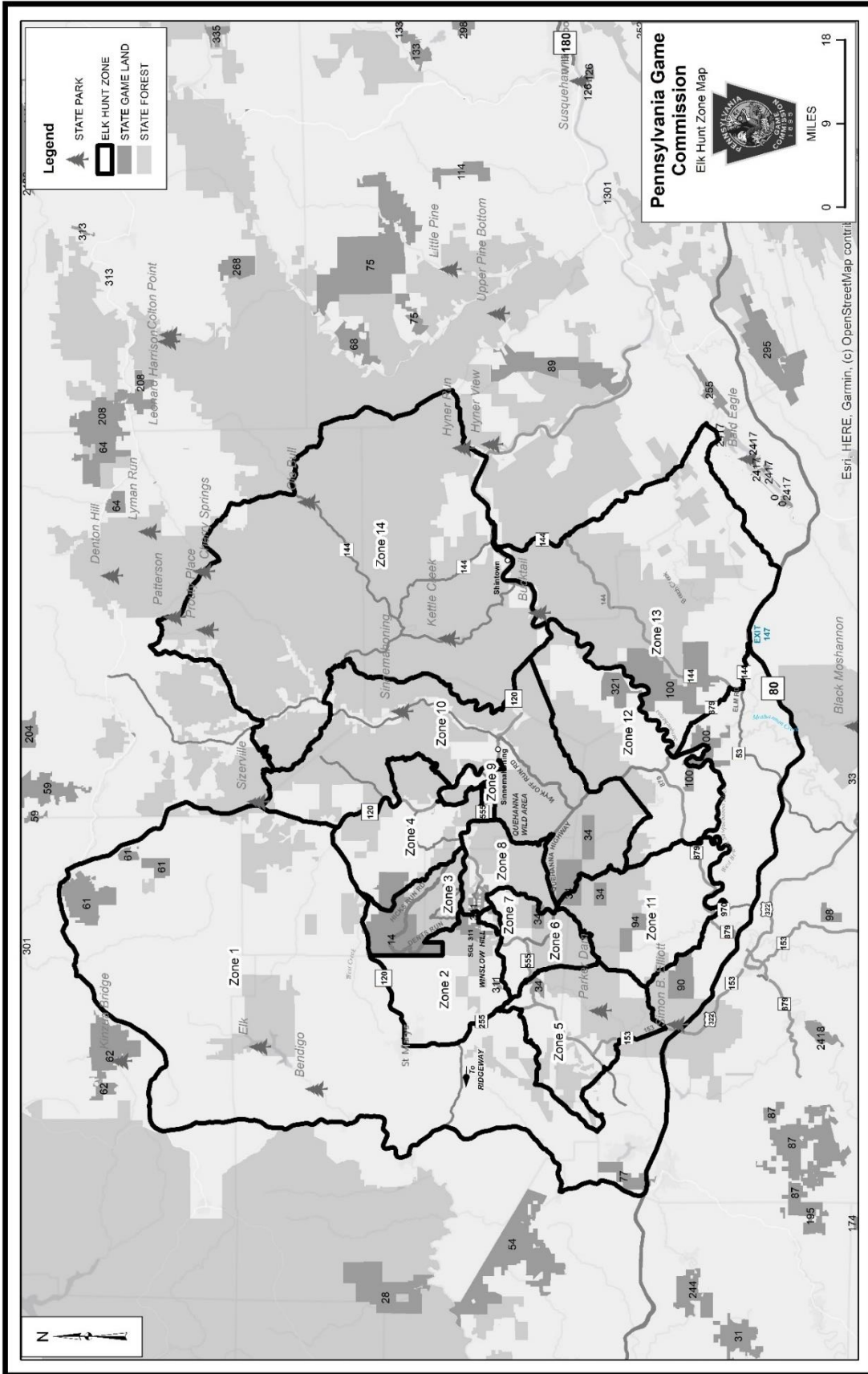
(b) Elk hunt zones are those individual and distinct areas within the elk management area in which elk may be hunted according to annual elk allocations.

(b) The division line between two or more hunt zones shall be the center of the highway, road, natural water course or other natural boundary.

(c) The outline map of the elk management area sets forth the elk hunt zones.

*(See Elk Hunt Zone Map)*

ANNEX "A"



## CHAPTER 143. HUNTING AND FURTKER LICENSES

### Subchapter K. ELK LICENSES

§ 143.203. ~~[Drawing]~~ Random drawing elk licenses.

(a) The Executive Director will set the date ~~[and location]~~ for the random drawing of applications for the issuance of random drawing elk licenses. ~~[Incomplete, illegible or duplicate applications will not be included in the drawing.]~~

(b) Applications from current applicants who have applied in the 2003-2004 license year and subsequent years will be included in the random drawing until the applicant is successfully drawn and issued a license.

(c) Applicants issued a random drawing elk license entitling them to take an antlered elk are not permitted to apply for ~~[an]~~ a random drawing elk license for 5 license years.

(d) Qualified applicants and alternates drawn for ~~[an]~~ a random drawing elk license shall be required to obtain a regular hunting license and complete an orientation program as prescribed by the Director.

(e) Qualified applicants drawn for ~~[an]~~ a random drawing elk license whose military obligation prevents them from hunting the current elk season shall be eligible to hunt in the next available elk season.

(f) The number of available random drawing elk licenses each year shall be limited to ~~[a number]~~ the allocations set by the Commission for each Elk Hunt Zone. Any Elk Hunt Zone that does not receive an allocation for a given hunting license year is closed to all elk hunting, unless the zone is designated as open to all elk license holders by the Commission.

§ 143.203a. Special elk conservation license auction.

(a) Each year the Commission may contract with an eligible wildlife conservation organization to conduct an auction sale of one special elk conservation license in accordance with ~~[the mandates under]~~ section 2706.2(b) of the act (relating to elk hunting licenses).

(b) Upon conclusion of the auction, the wildlife conservation organization shall issue the winning bidder a license voucher which may be redeemed for a special elk conservation license under section 2712 of the act (relating to vouchers for licenses and permits).

(c) Except as authorized by § 143.206(c), special conservation license auction elk licenses are limited to use within the Elk Hunt Zone(s) receiving allocation(s) for a given hunting license year under section § 143.203(f). Any Elk Hunt Zone that does not receive an allocation for a given hunting license year under section § 143.203(f) is closed to all elk hunting, unless the zone is designated as open to all elk license holders by the Commission.

§ 143.203b. Special-license fundraiser elk license.

(a) Each year the Commission may contract with an eligible Pennsylvania-based nonprofit organization to conduct an auction or raffle sale of one special -license fundraiser elk license in accordance with section 2706.2(c) of the act (relating to elk hunting licenses).

(b) Upon conclusion of the auction or raffle, the Pennsylvania-based nonprofit organization shall issue the winning bidder a license voucher which may be redeemed for a special -license fundraiser elk license under section 2712 of the act (relating to vouchers for licenses and permits).

(c) Except as authorized by § 143.206(c), special -license fundraiser elk license auction licenses are limited to use within the Elk Hunt Zone(s) receiving allocation(s) for a given hunting license year under section § 143.203(f). Any elk hunt zone that does not receive an allocation for a given hunting license year under section § 143.203(f) is closed to all elk hunting, unless the zone is designated as open to all elk license holders by the Commission.

§ 143.206. Validity of [~~license~~] elk licenses.

(a) *Elk hunt zones.* Except as provided in subsection (c), an elk license is valid for taking elk only in the elk hunt zones designated on the elk license, unless the zone is designated as open to all elk license holders by the Commission.

(b) *Elk gender.* Except as provided in subsection (c), an elk license is valid for taking only an antlerless, antlered or either sex elk as designated on the elk license.

(c) *Exception.* Any unfilled antlered or antlerless elk license for any designated elk hunt [~~zones is~~] zone(s) are additionally valid for taking either an antlered or antlerless elk anywhere within this Commonwealth outside of the elk management area during any [~~designated~~] extended elk season [~~following~~] established in § 139.4 (relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year) that follows the regular elk season.

Action:

## **BUREAU OF WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT**

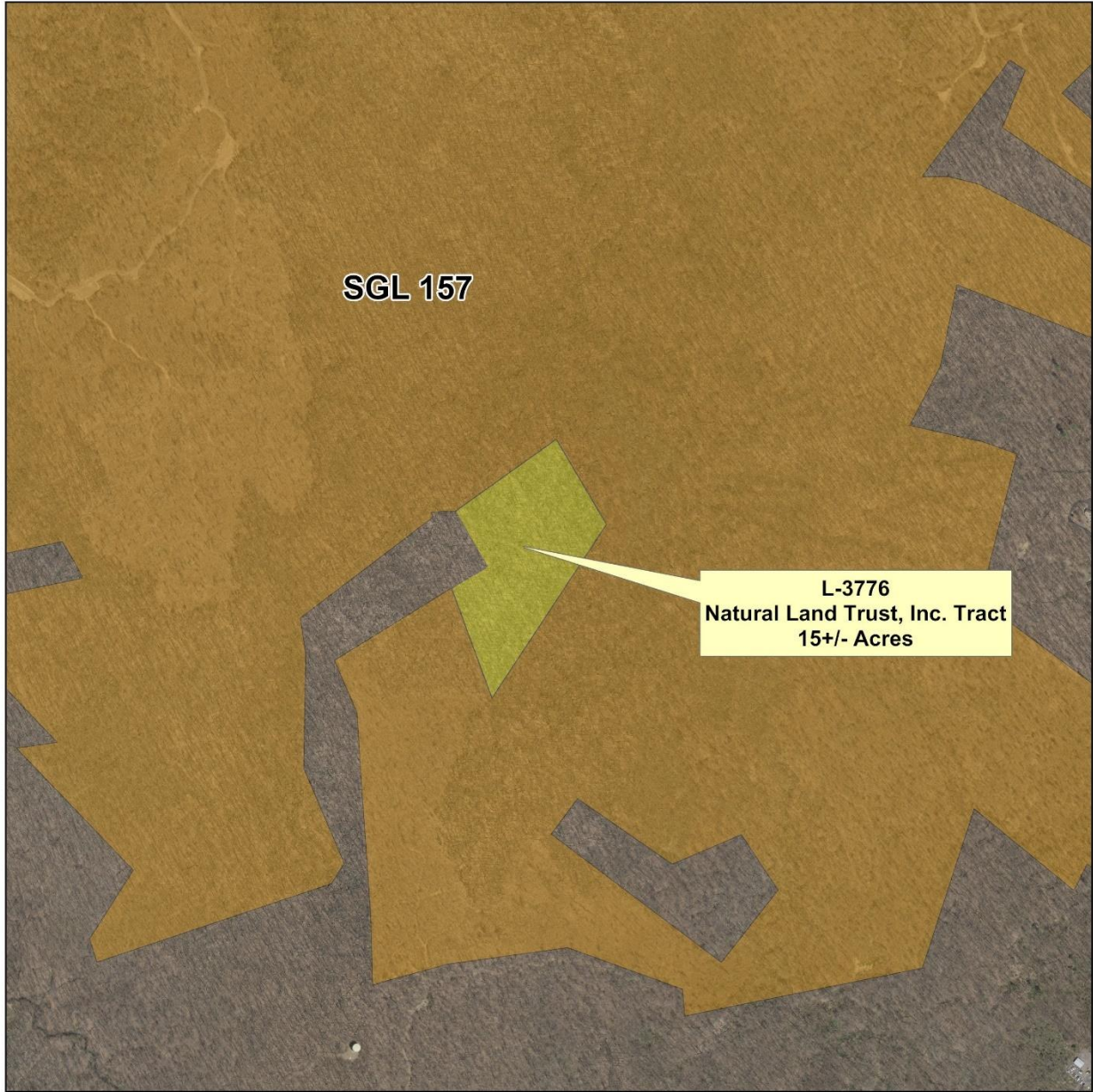
### **REAL ESTATE**

#### **A. Donation**

Contract No. L-3776, State Game Land No. 157, Bucks County

Commentary: Natural Lands Trust, Inc. (Natural Lands) is offering to donate 15+/- acres of land in Haycock Township, Bucks County, an indenture in State Game Land No. 157 (Exhibit RED 1). Natural Lands was successful in receiving funding through partnership grants provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service through the Highlands Conservation Act. Covenants, conditions, and restrictions associated with these funding sources will be required to accept the property. Access is through existing State Game Land No. 157.

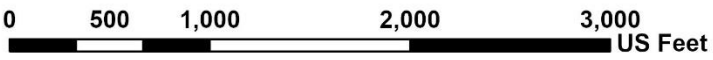
Action:



**Exhibit RED 1**  
**State Game Land No. 157**

L-3776  
Donation  
Natural Land Trust, Inc. Tract  
15+/- Acres

Haycock Township  
Bucks County  
Southeast Region



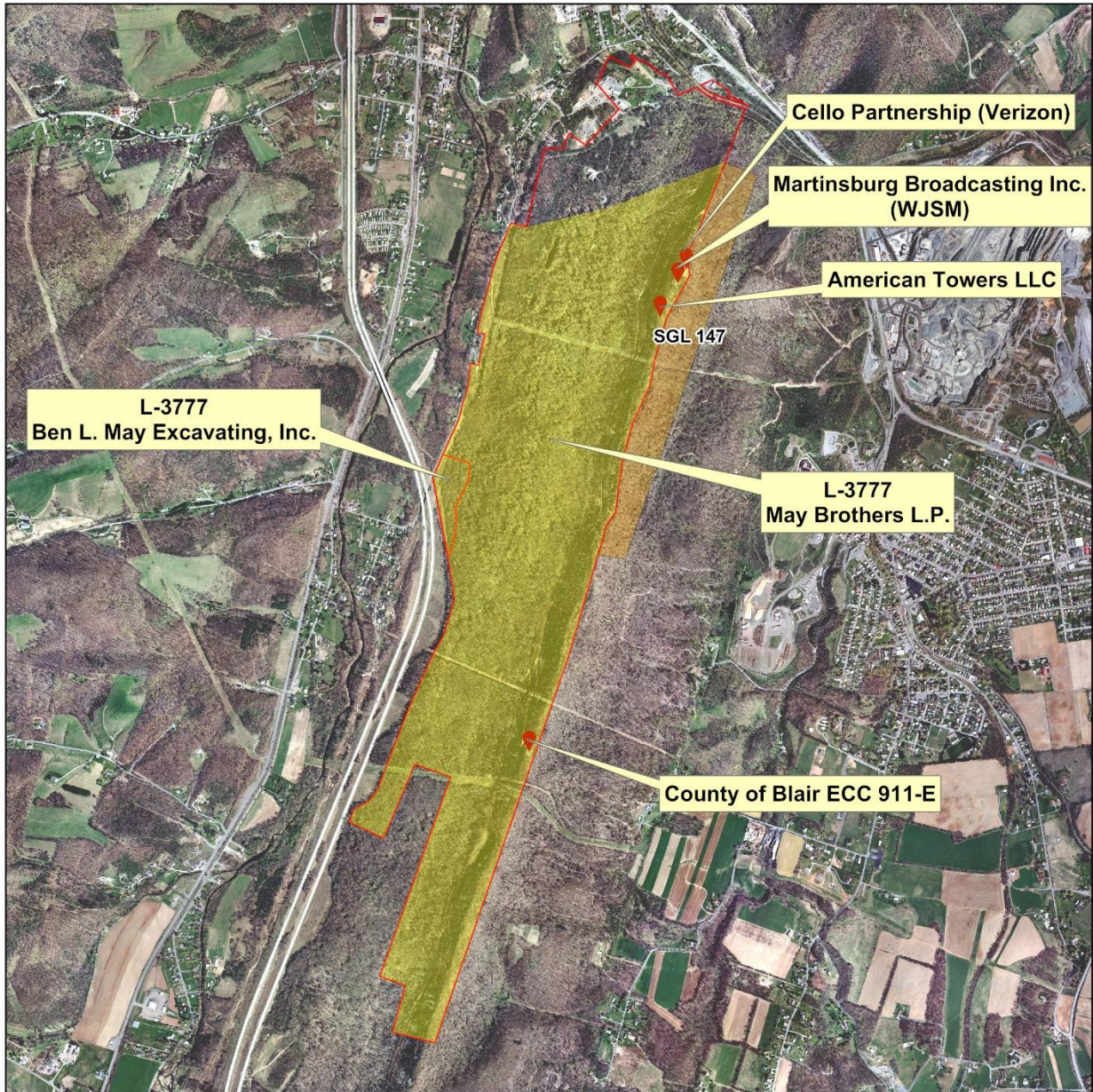
B. Acquisition

Contract No. L-3777, State Game Land No. 147, Blair County

Commentary:

May Brothers, L.P. and Ben L. May Excavating, Inc. are offering 635+/- acres of land in Freedom and Greenfield Townships, Blair County, adjoining a detached portion of State Game Land No. 147 (Exhibit RED 2). The option price is \$1,040,000 lump sum to be paid with funding from the Indiana Bat Conservation Fund (IBCF) and will be subject to approval from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The IBCF was established by the USFWS to fund projects important to the conservation and recovery of the Indiana bat within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Indiana bat is listed as a federal and state listed endangered species. The property is to be managed for the primary benefit of the Indiana bat in accordance with an Indiana bat management plan developed cooperatively by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (Commission) and the USFWS. Four tower sites are located on the property and are being conveyed with the property. Two of the tower sites provide annual revenues which will be transferred to the Commission upon conveyance of the property. As per the Agreement between the USFWS and the Commission, these annual revenues will be retained and kept by the Commission in the Game Fund. The property is forested with northern hardwoods. Access is from T-349, Mountain Road.

Action:



**Exhibit RED 2**

**State Game Land No. 147**

**L-3777**

**May Brothers, L.P.**

**&**

**Ben L. May Excavating, Inc. Tracts  
635+/- Acres**

**Freedom & Greenfield Townships  
Blair County  
Southcentral Region**





C. Exchange

Contract No. L-3778, State Game Land No. 249, Adams County

Commentary:

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is offering to exchange 0.043+/- acres of land in Huntingdon Township, Adams County, near State Game Land No. 249 (Exhibit RED 3) to the Commission in exchange for 0.043+/- acres of State Game Land No. 249. PennDOT is replacing a bridge over an unnamed tributary to Bermudian Creek on State Route 1009, Section 012, commonly known as Wiermans Mill Road. The bridge replacement project is located on a parcel of land acquired with funding authorized by the Project 70 Land Acquisition and Borrowing Act. Using this land for purposes other than prescribed in the Act will require approval from the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which will be the responsibility of PennDOT. Access is from White Church Road. Staff has determined the proposed exchange is in the best interests of the Commission.

Action:

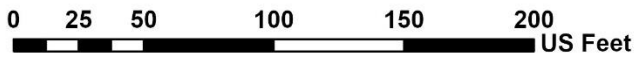


**Exhibit RED 3  
State Game Land No. 249**

L-3778

Land Exchange  
To PennDOT Tract  
0.043+/- Acre  
To PGC Tract  
0.043+/- Acre

Huntingdon Township  
Adams County  
Southcentral Region



## OIL/GAS & MINERALS

- D. Restricted Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement  
Tract 36A-20, State Game Land Nos. 12 and 36, Bradford County

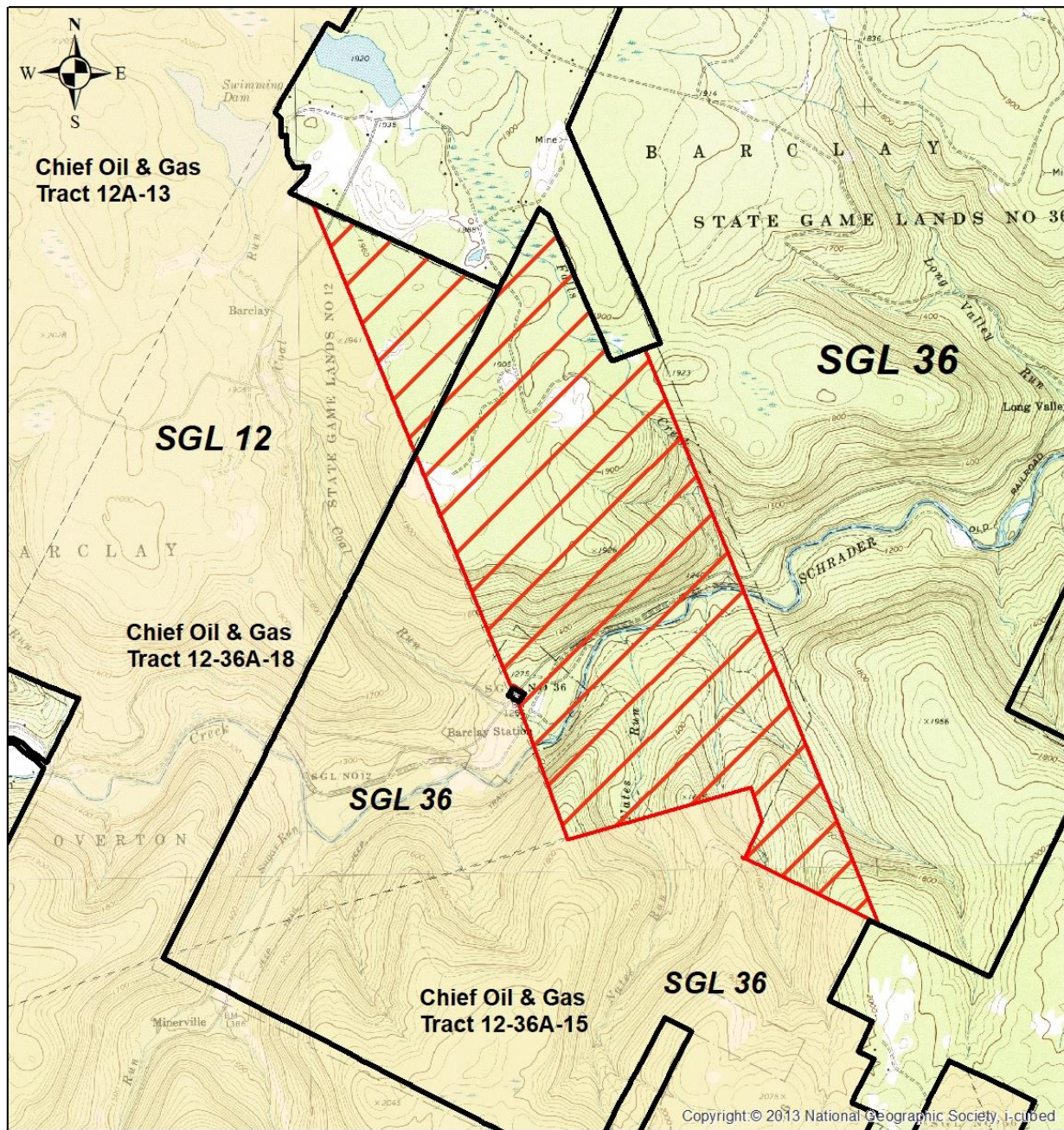
Commentary: Chief Exploration & Development LLC (Chief) of Dallas, Texas has requested the Commission offer its oil and gas rights under a portion of State Game Land Nos. 12 and 36 for restricted surface use oil/gas development. The proposed tract, containing approximately 1,440+/- gross acres, is located in Barclay and Overton Townships, Bradford County (Exhibit OGM 1).




Chief has successfully developed approximately 27,426 acres of SGL's 12 and 36 under six Commission approved Agreements which consist of both Commission owned and severed (privately owned) gas rights. Chief desires to further develop this 1,440 acre un-leased portion of the game lands and will not utilize any PGC surface for drilling pad locations, as the proposed area will be developed from Chief's current and planned drilling operations located on adjacent private lands by horizontal drilling. The Commission also recognizes the potential future need to utilize portions of this proposed leasehold abutting of Falls Creek Road for an access road to future drilling operations located on adjoining State Game Lands. OGM staff negotiated the proposed terms of the agreement with Chief in an effort to prudently develop the Commission's oil/gas reserve and simultaneously protect the wildlife resources and recreational use of State Game Land Nos. 12 and 36.

The terms of the Agreement are a five-year paid up Restricted Surface Use Oil and Gas Agreement, a \$1,500 per net oil and gas acre bonus payment and a stepped royalty structure that has an initial royalty of 17% for all oil/gas and other liquids or condensates produced and sold from the proposed tract for the first 24 months of production for each well, then stepping up to 18% for the remaining life of each well. The bonus payment of approximately \$2,160,000 will be deposited into the Game Fund. Chief will also make a \$504,000 wildlife enhancement payment to be deposited into the Game Fund or into an interest-bearing escrow account to be used for the future purchase of wildlife habitats, lands, or other projects incidental to hunting, furtaking and wildlife resource management. The bonus and wildlife enhancement payment will be made in three equal installments of \$888,000 with the first payment due in July 2021 and the second and third payments due in July 2022 and July 2023. Future rentals and royalties owed the Commission shall be directly deposited into the Game Fund.

Oil and Gas Development will be regulated by the Commonwealth's Oil and Gas Regulations and the Commission's Standard Restricted Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement.

Action:



-  Restricted Surface Use Agreement Area  
1,440 +/- Acres
-  State Game Land
-  Existing Agreements

0 1,250 2,500 5,000  
Feet

1 inch = 2,750 feet

**EXHIBIT OGM-1**  
**State Game Land No. 12 & 36**  
**Restricted Surface Use**  
**Oil & Gas Cooperative Agreement**  
**Chief Exploration & Development, LLC**  
**Tract 12-36A-20**  
**1,440 +/- Acres**

Barclay & Overton Twps., Bradford County  
 Northeast Region

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

Next Commission Meeting – April 16-17, 2021, in Harrisburg, PA

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

Adjournment