

<p style="text-align: center;">PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT MAMMAL AREA #17 The Barrens (SGL 176)</p>

COUNTY(IES) Centre

APPROX. SIZE 6,956 acres

OWNERSHIP Public (State)

REASON FOR SELECTION

- Sustains a confirmed viable local population of a Species of Greatest Conservation Need and the species or subspecies regularly occurs at the site during one or more seasons

DESCRIPTION

The Barrens, located off SR 322 approximately 6 miles northwest of State College, represents a unique habitat with plant species that are uncommon elsewhere in the state (scrub oak, black oak, pitch pine). It encompasses a large tract of valley forest in a state where most remaining forests are on ridges or on the Allegheny Plateau. Included are a small lake (5-Acre Pond) and several small wetlands.

MAMMAL NOTES

The site supports a population of Appalachian cottontails. Large numbers of black bears occur and the site may also be used by bobcats and coyotes.

CONSERVATION NOTES

Designated an IBA (IBA #34) because of number and diversity of spring and fall migrating warblers, it also is home to northern saw-whet owl. There is a significant population of spotted salamanders. The area, which houses a popular rifle range, is heavily used by humans (hunters, bird-watchers, hikers, and bikers) and seriously threatened by residential encroachment, loss of aquatic habitats, and pollution. Suppression of fire has been an ongoing threat, but the PGC is now actively using fire as a management tool at this site. Because of its proximity to The Pennsylvania State University and heavy use, there are ample opportunities for educational development.