PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT MAMMAL AREA #2
Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area/SGL 214

COUNTY(IES) Crawford

APPROX. SIZE 33,000 acres

OWNERSHIP Public (State)

REASON FOR SELECTION

- Supports significant populations of species or subspecies with specific habitat requirements
- Includes a habitat type that supports significant aggregations of mammals during one or more seasons
- 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.
- Includes wild populations of mammals that can be viewed in their natural habitat
- Site is a natural area associated with an established educational program that interprets natural history of resident mammals.

DESCRIPTION

This large wetlands area is located southeast of Pymatuning Reservoir. Also referred to as Hartstown Swamp, the habitat is dominated by mixed woodland, shrubby fields, swamps and freshwater marshes, and cultivated lands. It also incorporates a mosaic of subdominant habitats, including deciduous and coniferous woodlands, old fields, and streams. The Pymatuning Wildlife Learning Center, along Hartstown Road just south of Linesville, has public educational programs.

MAMMAL NOTES

The site is home to a large colony of little brown myotis (~1000 bats) and is an important site for expansion of northern river otters, which have colonized the site from Ohio. There are historical records of the least shrew and a geographically restricted subspecies of southern red-backed vole (*Clethrionomys gapperi paludicola*). Beaver sign is readily observable, with the potential for developing a “watchable wildlife” site.

CONSERVATION NOTES

The site includes a number of plant species associated with wetland habitats. Pymatuning Reservoir and surrounding wetlands have been designated an IBA (IBA #3) because they harbor large concentrations of nesting bald eagles and migratory waterfowl, as well as being the state's only regular nesting area for black terns. Major forces for habitat change are exotic species and succession.