

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION**



**AGENDA
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
July 28, 2025**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen P. Smith".

Stephen P. Smith
Executive Director

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Game Commission

Agenda

The Commission Meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission will be held on Monday, July 28, 2025, at 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Commissioners

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

Approval of minutes of Commission meeting held April 12, 2025.

I. BOARD RESOLUTION CONCERNING ACT 36 OF 2025

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION**

A RESOLUTION

Directing the Executive Director to alter the previously established hunting season dates, following the removal of the restrictions on hunting on Sundays in Act 36 of 2025 and in accordance with the authority provided to the Executive Director under 58 Pa. Code § 139.3.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners recognizes the recent enactment of Act 36 of 2025, which removes statutory restrictions on hunting on Sundays within this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Board further recognizes that under 58 Pa. Code § 139.3, the Executive Director has the authority to alter the established hunting season dates and designate additional hunting days when it is consistent with sound wildlife management principles; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges the substantial interest among hunters and other stakeholders in expanding hunting opportunities through the inclusion of Sundays within existing seasons, provided such expansion does not negatively affect the sustainability of wildlife populations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Board of Commissioners hereby directs the Executive Director, pursuant to the authority granted under 58 Pa. Code § 139.3 and Act 36 of 2025, to issue an Executive Order establishing that hunting may occur within the established game species in season, excepting migratory birds, on the following designated Sundays for the 2025 – 2026 hunting license season:

- a. September 14, 2025;
- b. September 21, 2025;
- c. September 28, 2025;
- d. October 5, 2025;
- e. October 12, 2025;
- f. October 19, 2025;
- g. October 26, 2025;
- h. November 2, 2025;
- i. November 9, 2025;
- j. November 16, 2025;

- k. November 23, 2025;
- l. November 30, 2025;
- m. December 7, 2025

Given under the hand and seal of the Board of Commissioners of the Pennsylvania Game Commission on this 28th day of July 2025.

II. BUREAU OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION

ADOPTED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 147.804.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Commission at its April 12, 2025, meeting proposed to amend § 147.804 (relating to general) to expand the mentored hunting program to authorize its participants to acquire agriculture deer control harvest permits and snow goose conservation permits. Mentored youth and mentored adults are currently ineligible to participate in these programs. This amendment is now before the Commission for final adoption.

Action:

Annex “A”

CHAPTER 147. SPECIAL PERMITS

Subchapter X. MENTORED HUNTING PROGRAM PERMIT

§ 147.804. General.

* * * * *

(l) *Application for and issuance of big game harvest tags.* Except as provided as follows, mentored youth and mentored adult hunting permits will be issued with an antlered deer, fall turkey and spring turkey harvest tag. No harvest tags will be issued with a mentored youth permit where the applicant is under 7 years of age at the time of application. Mentored youth over 7 years of age at the time of application and mentored adults are additionally eligible to make application for a bear license, a special wild turkey license, and one antlerless deer license and as many DMAP harvest permits and agriculture deer control harvest permits that are within the eligibility standards and limitations of these programs.

(m) *Application for and issuance of add-on licenses and permits.* Mentored youth and mentored adults are exempt from requirements to obtain archery and muzzleloader add-on licenses or stamps applicable to hunting archery or muzzleloader seasons for any species listed in subsection (c). Unless otherwise exempted by existing program standards, all mentored youth and mentored adults are required to obtain migratory bird licenses, snow goose conservation permits, and pheasant permits to participate in hunting during applicable seasons for any associated species listed in subsection (c).

* * * * *

B. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 147.762.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Commission at its April 12, 2025, meeting proposed to amend § 147.762 (relating to application) to improve accessibility to, and the effectiveness of, the agricultural damage depredation permit program. This amendment is now before the Commission for final adoption.

Action:

Annex “A”

CHAPTER 147. SPECIAL PERMITS

Subchapter V. AGRICULTURAL DAMAGE DEPREDATION PERMIT

§ 147.762. Application.

* * * * *

(c) Applications will only be accepted from persons meeting the following criteria:

(1) The permit applicant meets the definition of a qualified “person,” as defined in section 2121(c) of the act (relating to killing game or wildlife to protect property).

(2) {Reserved}.

(3) The permit applicant possesses a valid agriculture deer control permit if the species sought to be destroyed is white-tailed deer.

(d) An applicant shall certify that they are the owner or lessee of both the agricultural interest adversely affected by material damage caused by white-tailed deer and the hunting rights of the land to be covered by the permit application.

III. BUREAU OF WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

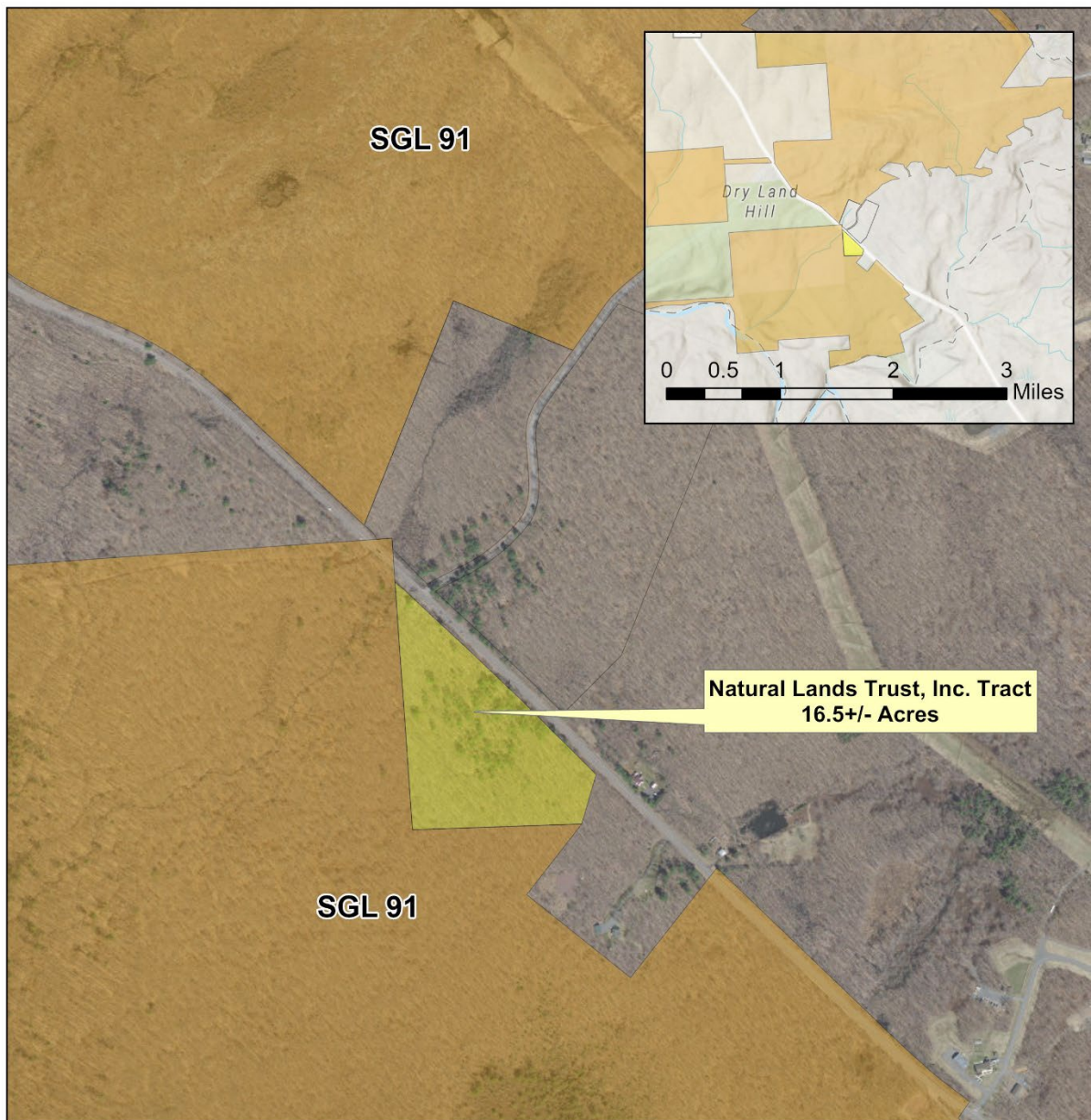
REAL ESTATE

A. Acquisition

Contract No. L-3908, State Game Land No. 91, Luzerne County

Commentary: Natural Lands Trust, Inc. is offering 16.5+/- acres of land in Buck Township, Luzerne County adjacent to State Game Land No. 91 (Exhibit 1). The option price is \$400 per acre to be paid from the Game Fund as authorized under Section 705(a)(1) of the Game and Wildlife Code (34 Pa.C.S. § 705(a)(1)). Natural Lands' acquisition of the property is contingent upon receiving funding through partnership grants. Covenants, conditions, and restrictions associated with these funding sources will be required to accept the property. Access is from Route 115.

Action:



0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 US Feet

Exhibit 1

State Game Land No. 91

L-3908
Natural Lands Trust, Inc. Tract
16.5+/- Acres

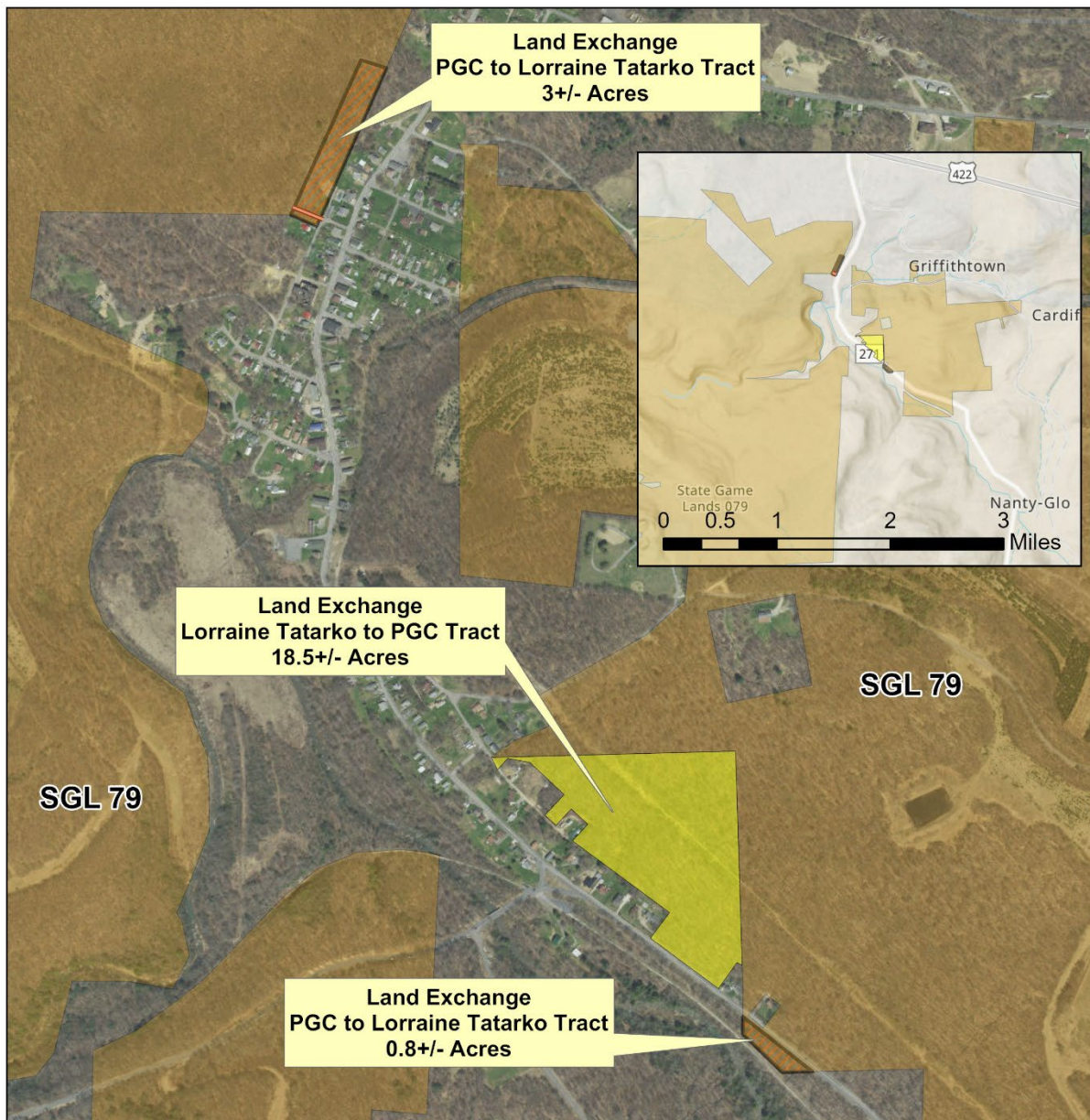
Buck Township
Luzerne County
Northeast Region

B. Exchange

Contract L-3909, State Game Land No. 79, Cambria County

Commentary: Lorraine Tatarko is offering 18.5 +/- acres of land in Blacklick Township, Cambria County, adjoining State Game Land No. 79 (SGL 79), to the Commission in exchange for 3.8 +/- acres of SGL 79 in Blacklick Township, Cambria County (Exhibit 2). This exchange is authorized under Section 723(1) of the Game and Wildlife Code (34 Pa.C.S. § 723(1)). Commission staff determined the proposed exchange is in the best interest of the Commission as it improves the integrity and manageability of SGL 79. Access to the parcel is from Station Road.

Action:



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US Feet

Exhibit 2

State Game Land No. 79

Land Exchange
Lorraine Tatarko to PGC Tract
18.5+/- Acres
PGC to Lorraine Tatarko Tracts
3.8+/- Acres

Blacklick Township
Cambria County
Southwest Region

C. Interagency Transfer

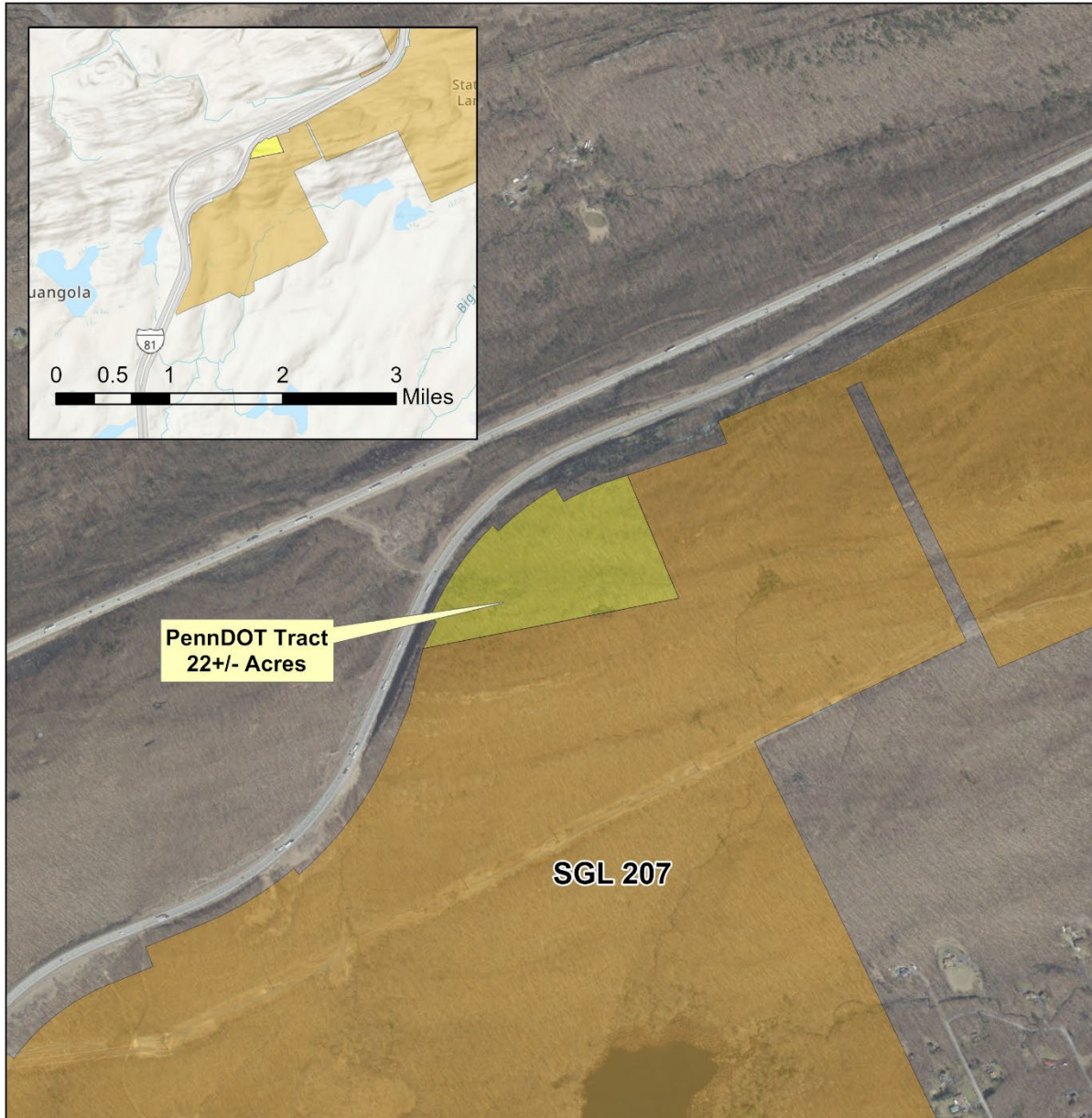
Contract No. L-3910, State Game Land No. 207, Luzerne County

Commentary:

On May 15, 2008, the Game Commission, PennDOT, and the Federal Highway Administration entered into a Cooperative Interagency Agreement for Interdepartmental Land Transfer and Establishment of State Game Land Banks. The State Game Land Banking Agreement streamlines transportation development projects by allowing PennDOT Districts to establish State Game Land Banks in advance of highway projects impacting less than 5 acres of State Game Lands. The Agreement expedites the mitigation process whereby impacts can be debited from existing land banks instead of being addressed on a case-by-case basis.

PennDOT agreed to transfer exclusive jurisdiction and control of 22+/- acres of land located in Hanover Township, Luzerne County to the Commission (Exhibit 3). The tract was identified as being acceptable for use as a State Game Land Bank Site in accordance with the Agreement. The property, known as the Witinski Bank Site, is an indenture to State Game Land No. 207. Both Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats show a potential presence on the property.

Action:



0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000
US Feet

Exhibit 3

State Game Land No. 207

PennDOT Tract
22+/- Acres

Hanover Township
Luzerne County
Northeast Region

D. Legal Settlement

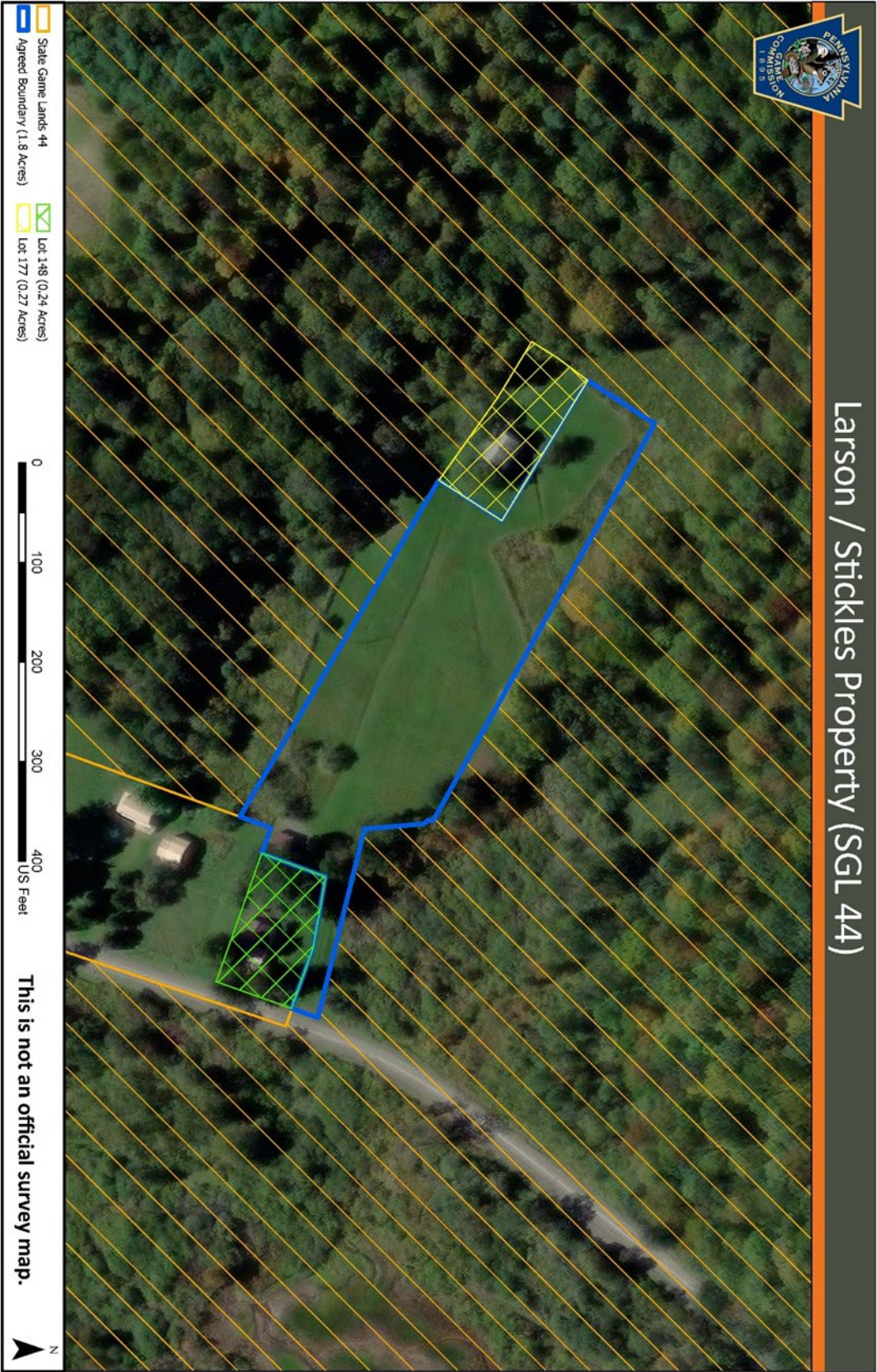
State Game Land No. 44, Horton Township, Elk County

Commentary: On June 11, 2025, the Commission approved, by notational vote, a legal settlement affecting the boundary line of State Game Land No. 44 (SGL 44). Mark Larson and Lori Snickles currently own Horton City Lots 148 and 177, Horton Township, Elk County, adjacent to SGL 44 as shown on the attached Exhibit 4. Each lot comprises one-quarter acre (1/4 acre) +/- of land. The Commission acquired the lands surrounding Lots 148 and 177 in 2008, giving rise to a boundary line dispute. The parties wish to resolve the matter by way of an exchange to establish an agreed-upon, shared boundary. The lands at issue are within a safety zone.

The Executive Director and Staff recommended the agreed-upon boundary line be accepted and the Commission authorize the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management and Chief Counsel's Office to proceed with settlement of this dispute.

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

EXHIBIT 4



IV. Other New Business

Next Commission Meeting – September 5-6

V. Adjournment

