

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION**



**AGENDA
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
September 5, 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 Friday, September 5, 2025, at 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA beginning at 10:00 a.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 July 28, 2025.

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION

PROPOSED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 147.804.

Commentary: Since the mentored hunting program's inception in 2006, the program has grown to include more species of game and wildlife and to expand the age groups eligible to participate in the program. With each step in its evolution, the mentored hunting program has become better aligned with the Commission's traditional hunting license structures. The Commission is proposing to change the mentored hunting program to improve access to the program and expand hunting opportunities.

The Commission is proposing to amend § 147.804 (relating to general) to allow a mentored youth who is under 7 years of age at the time of application to acquire big game tags with the purchase of their mentored hunting permit. Currently, mentored youth under the age of 7 at the time of application are ineligible to receive big game harvest tags with their permit materials. A mentor must transfer their own big game harvest tag to the mentored youth to make them eligible to lawfully harvest and tag big game. This creates challenges for mentors that accompany more than one child throughout the duration of the big game hunting seasons. Furthermore, a mentor who transfers their harvest tag to a successful mentored youth sacrifices their own ability to lawfully hunt for and tag the species for which the tag was issued. This change would align the procedures for the issuance of big game tags to all three age groups (under 7, 7 to 17, and adult).

CHAPTER 147. SPECIAL PERMITS

Subchapter X. MENTORED HUNTING PROGRAM PERMIT

§ 147.804. General.

* * * * *

(f) *Tagging requirements.* Mentored youth and mentored adults shall tag and report all big game harvested in the manner provided in section 2323 of the act (relating to tagging and reporting big game kills).

(g) ~~[Transfer of an antlerless license. Notwithstanding the prohibitions in section 2711(a)(3) and (5) of the act (relating to unlawful acts concerning licenses), mentors are authorized to transfer antlerless licenses issued to them to an eligible mentored youth who was under 7 years of age at the time of application. The antlerless license shall be valid and in the possession of the mentor at all times while hunting antlerless deer. The transfer of the antlerless license may not occur until after the mentored youth has harvested the antlerless deer, but before tagging the carcass. A mentored youth may receive by transfer no more than one antlerless deer~~

license each license year. ~~Mentored youth who are under 7 years of age at the time of application are ineligible to make direct application for an antlerless license]~~ {Reserved}.

(h) ~~[Transfer of a fall turkey tag. Notwithstanding the prohibitions in section 2711(a)(3) and (5) of the act, mentors are authorized to transfer fall turkey tags issued to them to an eligible mentored youth who was under 7 years of age at the time of application. The fall turkey tag shall be valid and in the possession of the mentor at all times while hunting fall turkey. The transfer of the fall turkey tag may not occur until after the mentored youth has harvested the fall turkey, but before tagging the carcass. A mentored youth may not receive by transfer more than one fall turkey tag each license year. This provision shall not be construed to authorize the transfer of a harvest tag to a mentored adult or a mentored youth that was 7 years of age or older at the time of application for the mentored permit]~~ {Reserved}.

(i) ~~[Transfer of a Deer Management Assistance Program harvest permit. Notwithstanding the prohibitions in § 147.676(2) and (3) (relating to unlawful acts), mentors are authorized to transfer Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) harvest permits issued to them to an eligible mentored youth who was under 7 years of age at the time of application. The DMAP harvest permit must be valid and in the possession of the mentor at all times while hunting antlerless deer. The transfer of the DMAP harvest permit may not occur until after the mentored youth has harvested the antlerless deer, but before tagging the carcass. A mentored youth may not receive by transfer more than one DMAP harvest permit each license year. Mentored youth who are under 7 years of age at the time of application are ineligible to make direct application for a DMAP harvest permit. This provision shall not be construed to authorize the transfer of a harvest tag to a mentored adult or a mentored youth that was 7 years of age or older at the time of application for the mentored permit]~~ {Reserved}.

(j) ~~[Transfer of an antlered deer harvest tag. Notwithstanding the prohibitions in section 2711(a)(3) and (5) of the act, mentors are authorized to transfer antlered deer harvest tags issued to them to a mentored youth who was under 7 years of age at the time of application. The antlered deer harvest tag shall be valid and in the possession of the mentor at all times while hunting antlered deer. The transfer of the antlered deer harvest tag may not occur until after the mentored youth has harvested the antlered deer, but before tagging the carcass. A mentored youth may not receive by transfer more than one antlered deer harvest tag each license year. This provision shall not be construed to authorize the transfer of a harvest tag to a mentored adult or a mentored youth that was 7 years of age or older at the time of application for the mentored permit]~~ {Reserved}.

(k) ~~[Transfer of a spring turkey harvest tag or special wild turkey harvest tag. Notwithstanding the prohibitions in section 2711(a)(3) and (5) of the act, mentors are authorized to transfer spring turkey harvest tags or special wild turkey harvest tags issued to them to a mentored youth who was under 7 years of age at the time of application. The spring turkey harvest tag or special wild turkey harvest tag shall be valid and in the possession of the mentor at all times while hunting spring turkey. The transfer of the spring turkey harvest tag or special wild turkey harvest tag may not occur until after the mentored youth has harvested the spring turkey, but before tagging the carcass. A mentored youth may not receive by transfer more than one spring turkey harvest tag or special wild turkey harvest tag each license year. This provision shall not be construed to authorize the transfer of a spring turkey harvest tag or special wild turkey harvest tag to a mentored adult or a mentored youth that was 7 years of age or older at the time of application for the mentored permit]~~ {Reserved}.

(l) *Application for and issuance of big game harvest tags.* ~~[Except as provided as follows, mentored]~~ 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 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 and pheasant permits to participate in hunting during applicable seasons for any associated species listed in subsection (c).

(n) ~~[Transfer of a bear harvest tag. Notwithstanding the prohibitions in section 2711(a)(3) and (5) of the act, mentors are authorized to transfer bear harvest tags issued to them to a mentored youth who was under 7 years of age at the time of application. The bear harvest tag shall be valid and in the possession of the mentor at all times while hunting bear. The transfer of the bear harvest tag may not occur until after the mentored youth has harvested the bear, but before tagging the carcass. A mentored youth may not receive by transfer more than one bear harvest tag each license year. This provision shall not be construed to authorize the transfer of a bear harvest tag to a mentored adult or a mentored youth that was 7 years of age or older at the time of application for the mentored permit]~~ {Reserved}.

Action:

B. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 147.559.

Commentary: On April 12, 2025, the Commission finally adopted an amendment to § 147.552(f) that eliminated the four-coupon limit for any person participating in the harvest of white-tailed deer on any property covered by an agricultural deer control permit. *See* 55 Pa.B. 3588 dated May 24, 2025. The text of this amendment failed to remove similar, redundant text in § 147.559 (relating to violations). The Commission is now proposing to amend § 147.559 to eliminate the text prohibiting a person from using, possessing, or attempting to use or possess more than four agricultural deer control area permits for a specific permit area in any permit year.

CHAPTER 147. SPECIAL PERMITS

Subchapter R. DEER CONTROL; AGRICULTURE

§ 147.559. Violations.

(a) It is unlawful to:

(1) ~~[Use, possess or attempt to use or possess more than four agriculture deer control harvest permits for a specific agriculture deer control area in any permit year]~~
{Reserved}.

(2) Use or possess or attempt to use or possess agriculture deer control harvest permit that was issued to another person.

* * * * *

Action:

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

PROPOSED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 135.101.

Commentary: State Game Land 339, a 17.88-acre tract of land donated to the Commission, is the only State game land within Philadelphia County. This property offers opportunities for bowhunting. Commission staff recommend designating SGL 339 as a special wildlife management area, which is necessary to facilitate quality hunting opportunities. The Commission, therefore, is proposing to amend § 135.101 (relating to designation of special wildlife management areas) to designate the Poquessing Creek Wildlife Management Area as a special wildlife management area (Exhibit 1).

CHAPTER 135. LANDS AND BUILDINGS

Subchapter F. SPECIAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

§ 135.101. Designation of special wildlife management areas.

(a) *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.

* * * * *

(c) *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.

(3) *Poquessing Creek Wildlife Management Area.* The area otherwise known as State Game Land No. 339, that is located in Philadelphia County.

(d) *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.

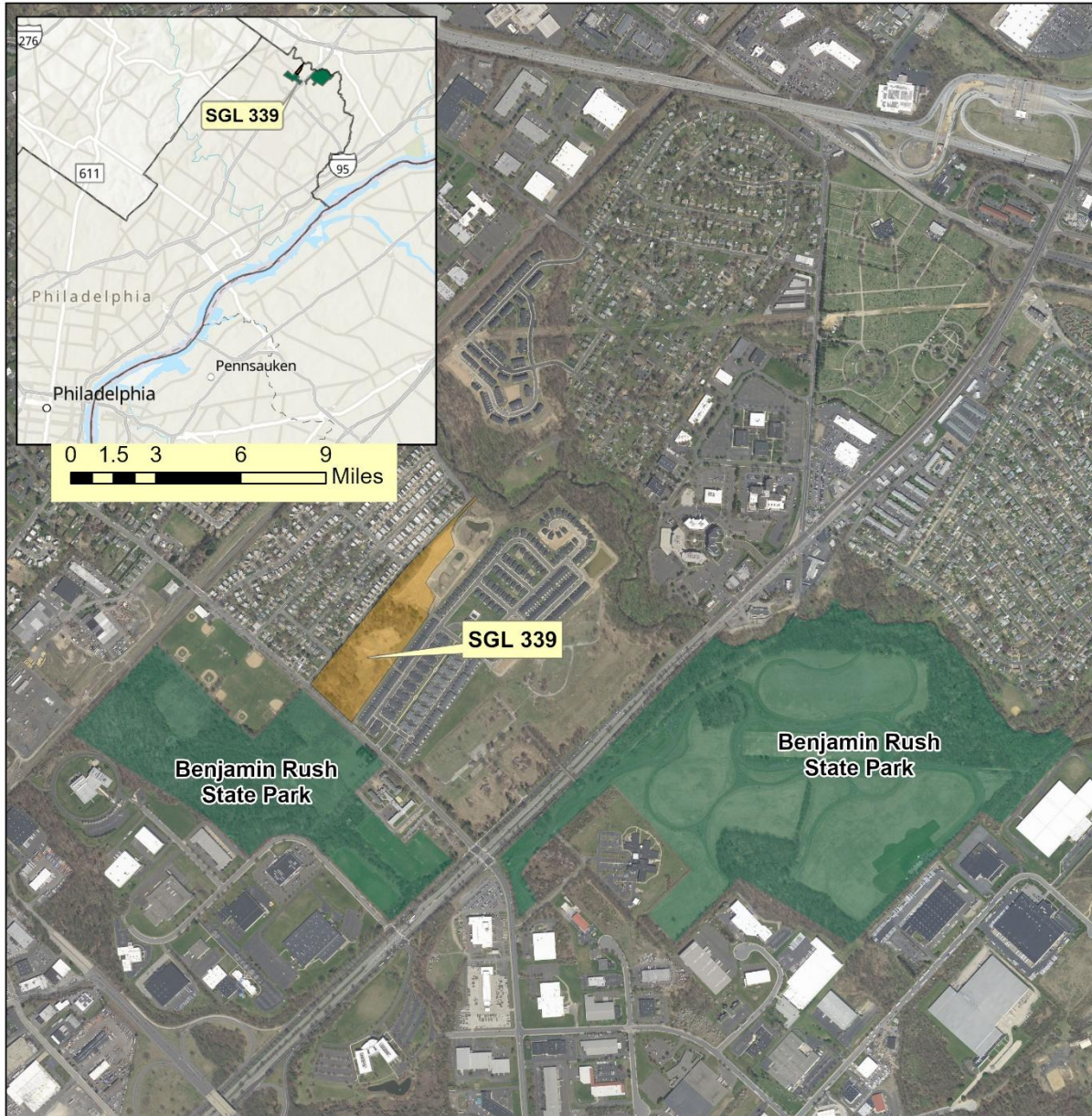


Exhibit 1

State Game Land No. 339

Poquessing Creek Wildlife Management Area

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US Feet

City of Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Southeast Region

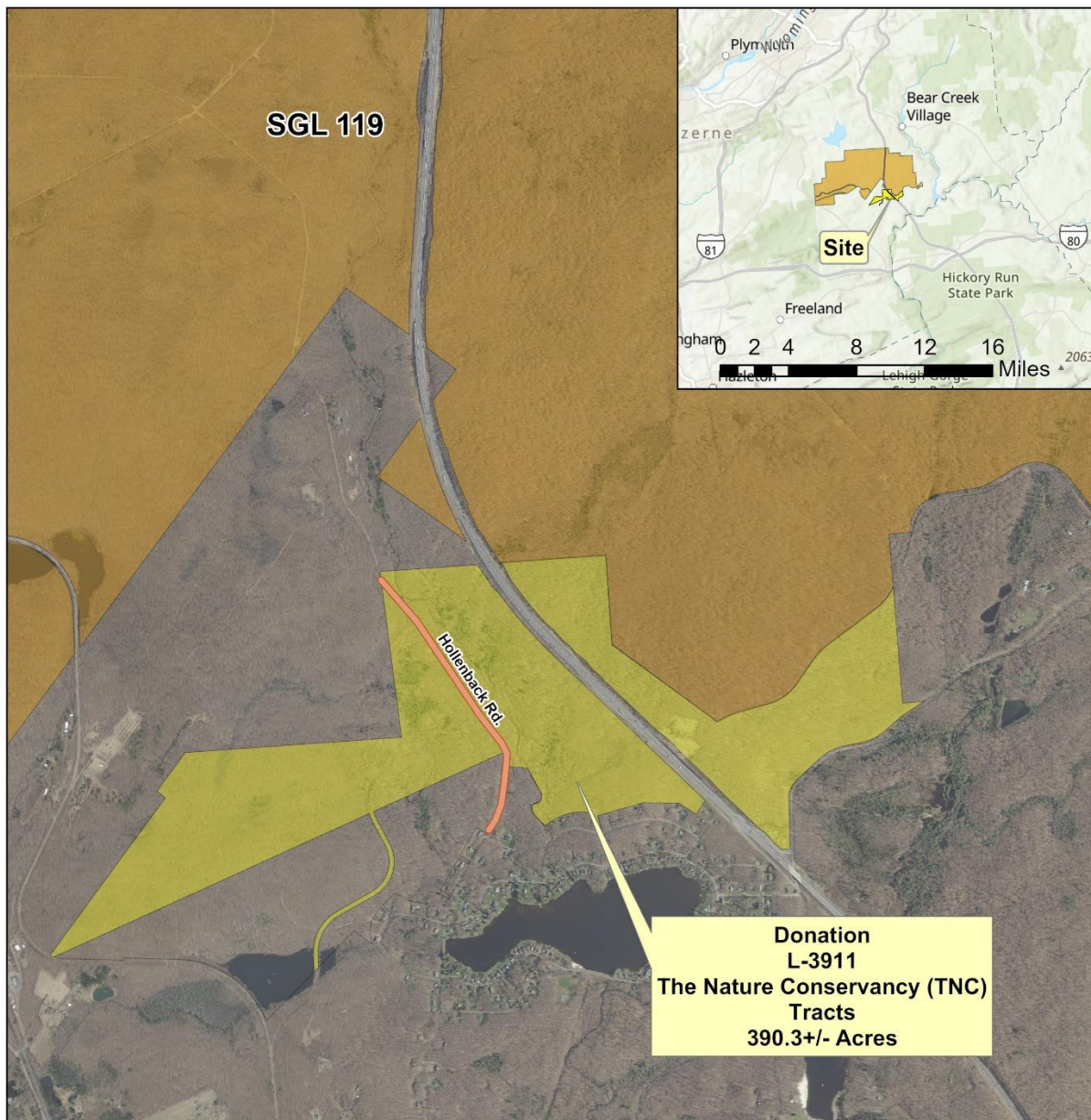
REAL ESTATE

B. Donation

Contract No. L-3911, State Game Land No. 119, Luzerne County

Commentary: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is offering to donate 390.3+/- acres of land in Penn Lake Park Borough, Luzerne County adjacent to State Game Land No. 119 (Exhibit RED 1). The donation is subject to DCNR approval due to applicable grant funding requirements. This property provides critical access to the existing State game land. The eastern parcel will provide road frontage and access from White Haven Road and open 2,400 acres of previously inaccessible lands. The western parcel will provide access from Hollenback Road. The Commission currently has deeded access to roughly 75% of Hollenback Road. The Commission will have 100% access to this road as a result of this donation as depicted on Exhibit RED 2.

Action:

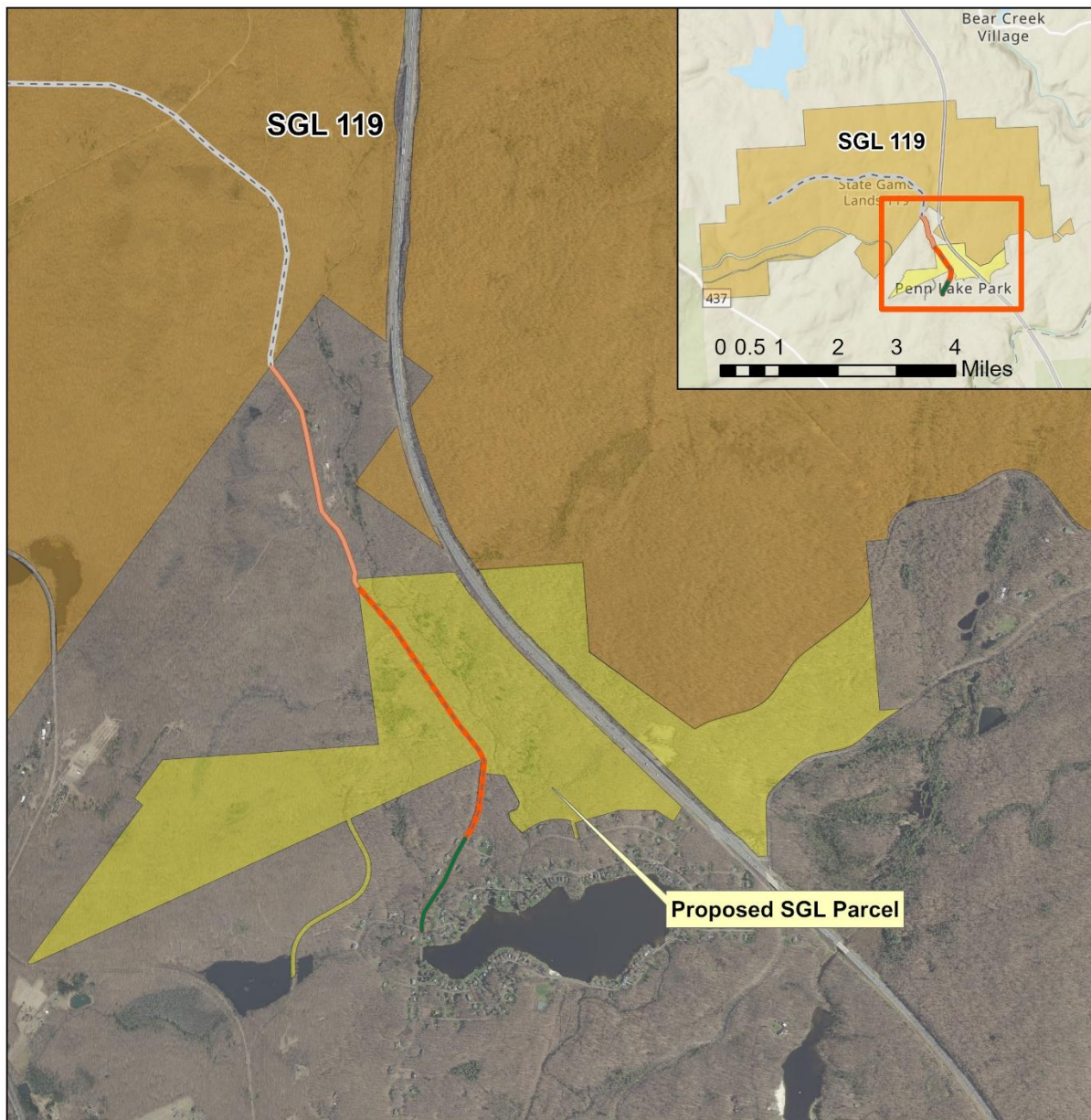


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US Feet

Exhibit RED 1
State Game Land No. 119

L-3911
Donation
The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Tracts
390.3+/- Acres

Penn Lake Park Borough
Luzerne County
Northeast Region



Hollenback Road

- Legal Right-of-Way
- PGC Owned Road
- Penn Lake Park Boro Road
- Private Road No Deeded Access

0 1,000 2,000 4,000 6,000 US Feet

Exhibit RED 2

State Game Land No. 119

L-3911

Hollenback Road Segments By Ownership

Penn Lake Park Borough &
Dennison Township
Luzerne County
Northeast Region

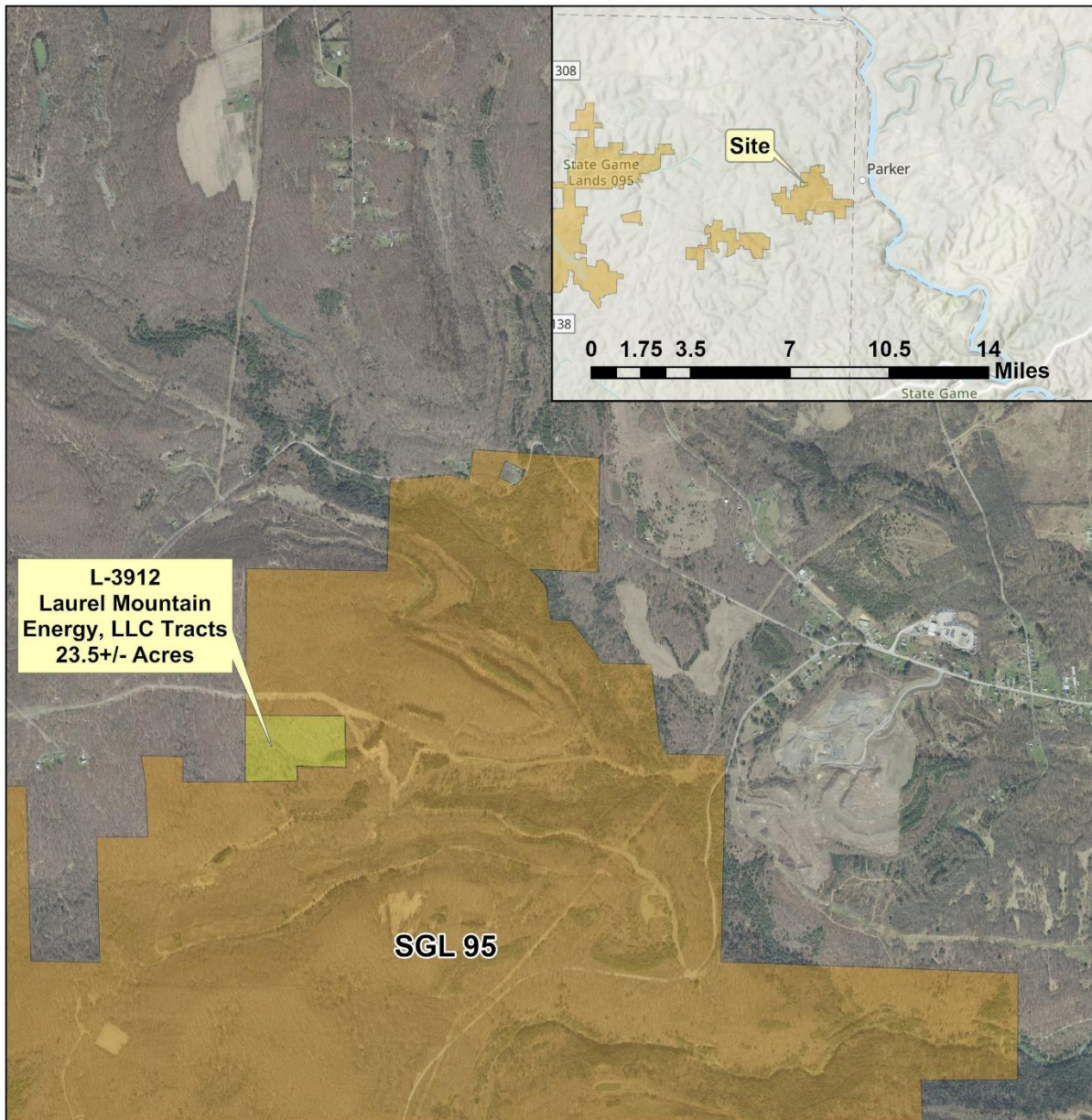
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C. Acquisition

Contract No. L-3912, State Game Land No. 95, Butler County

Commentary: Laurel Mountain Energy, LLC (LME) is offering 23.5+/- acres of land in Parker Township, Butler County, an indenture to State Game Land No. 95 (Exhibit RED 3). The option price is \$80,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Fund as authorized under Section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code (34 Pa.C.S. § 705(b)). This acquisition will improve the manageability of the existing State game lands. LME is excepting and reserving the oil, gas, and minerals, but not the right to use the surface of the property for any future OGM development. Access is through existing State Game Land No. 95.

Action:



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Exhibit RED 3

State Game Land No. 95

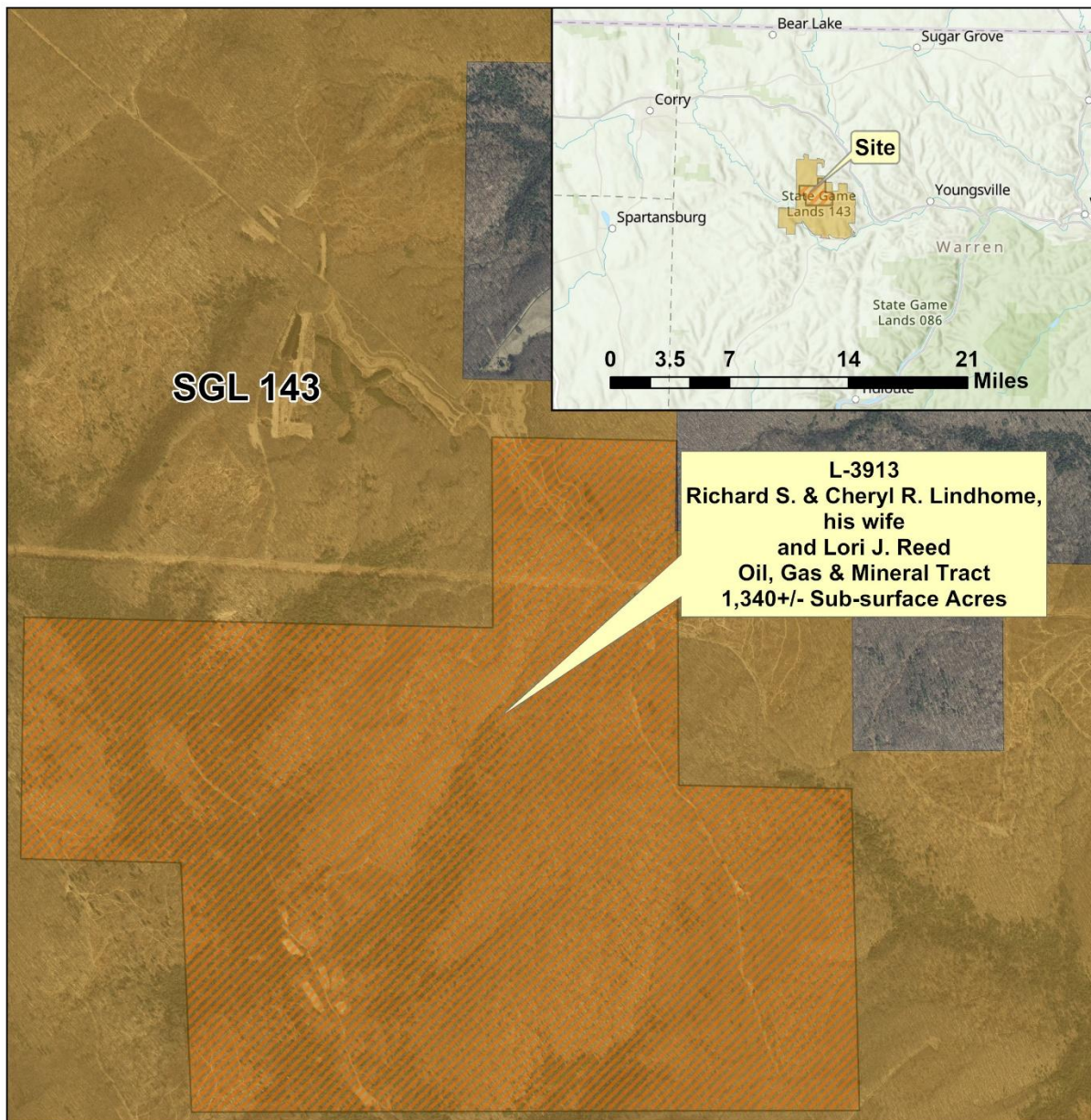
L3912
Laurel Mountain Energy LLC Tracts
23.5+/- Acres

Parker Township
Butler County
Northwest Region

Contract No. L-3913, State Game Land No. 143, Warren County

Commentary: Cheryl R. and Richard S. Lindhome, husband and wife, and Lori J. Reed are offering 1,340+/- acres of subsurface oil, gas and mineral real estate located in and under State Game Land No. 143 (Exhibit RED 4). The option price is \$469,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Fund as authorized under Section 705(c) of the Game and Wildlife Code (34 Pa.C.S. § 705(c)). State Game Land No. 143 contains quality habitat for ruffed grouse as well as Blue Eye Run, a stocked trout stream. By acquiring this interest in the subsurface estate, the Commission will have greater control over future development efforts that could impact the unique habitat on this game land.

Action:



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 US Feet

Exhibit RED 4
State Game Land No. 143

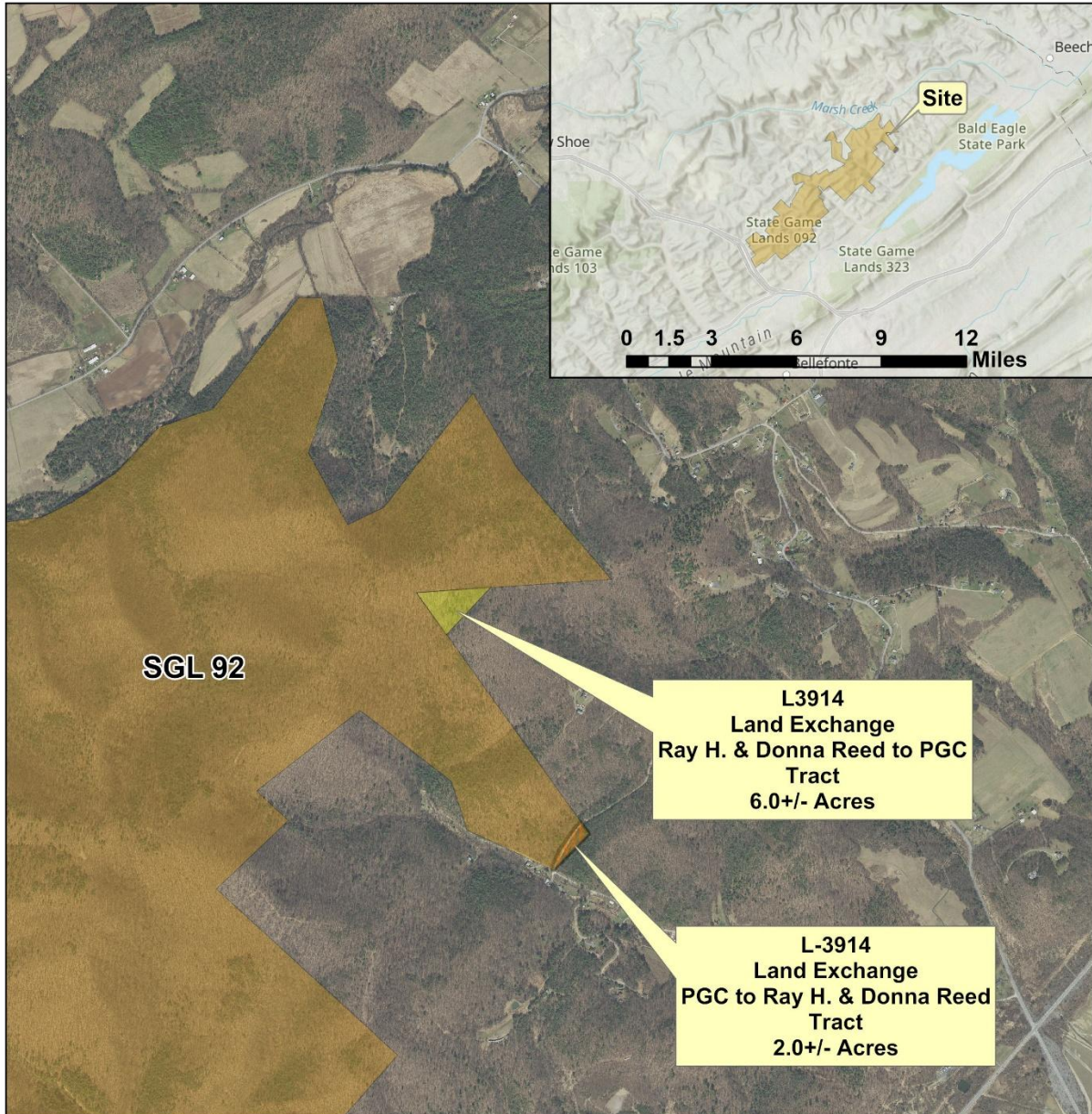
L-3913
Richard S. & Cheryl R. Lindhome, his wife
and Lori J. Reed
Oil, Gas & Mineral Tract
1,340+/- Sub-surface Acres
 Pittsfield Township
 Warren County
 Northwest Region

D. Exchange

Contract No. L-3914, State Game Land No. 92, Centre County

Commentary: Donna Reed and Ray H. Reed are offering 6.0+/- acres of land in Howard Township, Centre County, adjoining State Game Land No. 92, to the Commission in exchange for 2.0+/- acres of State Game Land No. 92 in Howard Township, Centre County (Exhibit RED 5). 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 State Game Land No. 92. The Commission will retain an administrative right of way across the property.

Action:



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Exhibit RED 5 State Game Land No. 92

L-3914
Land Exchange
Ray H. & Donna Reed to PGC Tract
6.0+/- Acres
PGC to Ray H. & Donna Reed Tract
2.0+/- Acres

Howard Township
Centre County
Northcentral Region

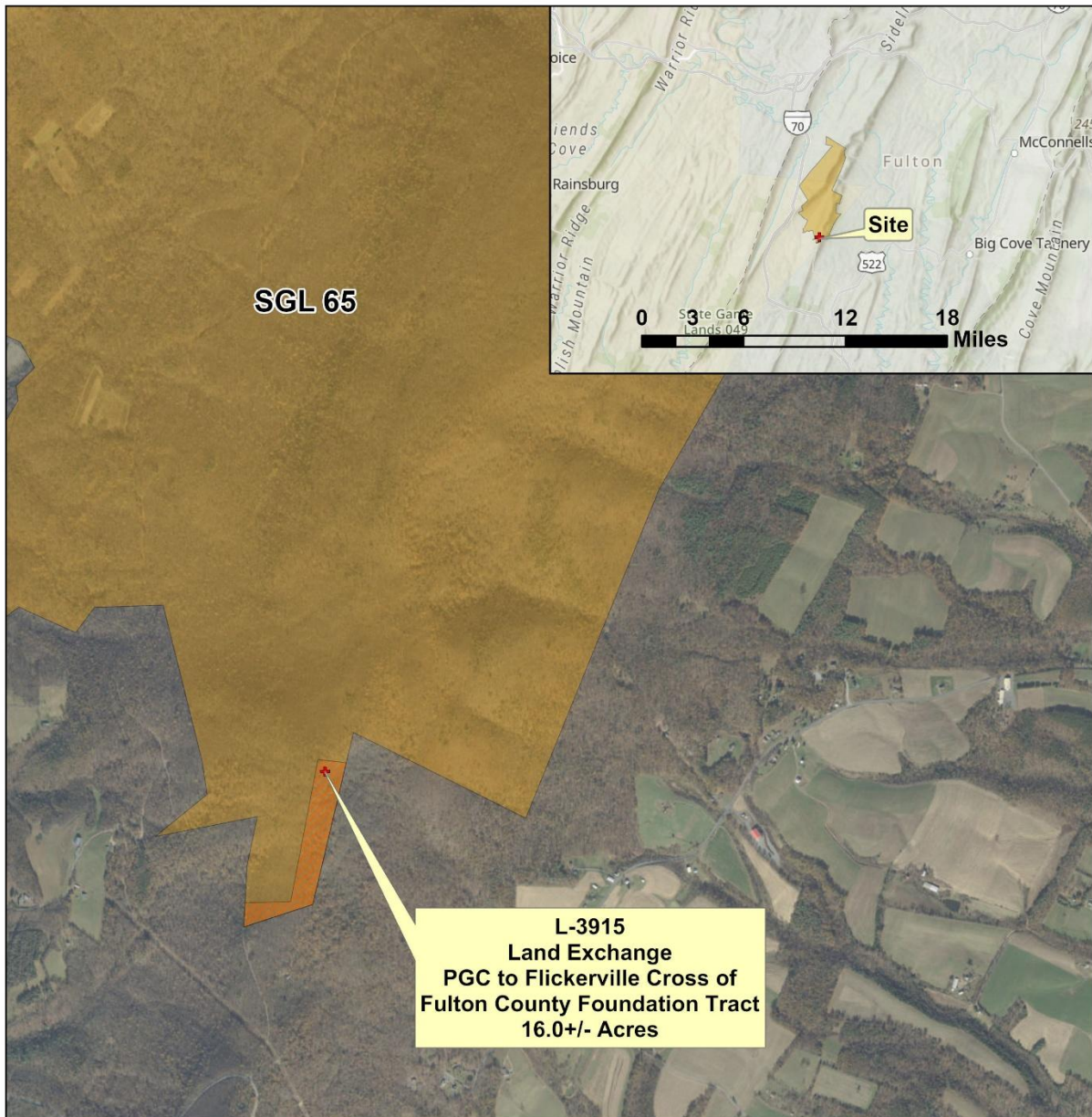
Contract No. L-3915, State Game Land No. 212, Snyder County

Commentary: Flickerville Cross of Fulton County Foundation is offering to participate in an exchange of 16+/- acres in Brush Creek and Belfast Townships, Fulton County, adjoining State Game Land No. 65 (Exhibit RED 6), for 140+/- acres of land in Washington, Penn and Union Townships, Snyder County, adjoining State Game Land 212 (Exhibit RED 7).

Flickerville Cross of Fulton County Foundation will provide \$31,200 towards the \$275,000 option price of the 140+/- acres being offered by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The Commission will pay the balance of \$243,800 from the Commission's restricted account, representing settlement funds from environmental damage claims brought by the Commonwealth. Access is from Hidden Valley Road.

This exchange is authorized under Section 723(1) of the Game and Wildlife Code (34 Pa.C.S. § 723(1)). Commission staff determined the 140+/- acres to be conveyed to the Commission is of greater value than the land to be conveyed to Flickerville Cross of Fulton County Foundation and that the proposed exchange is in the best interest of the Commission.

Action:

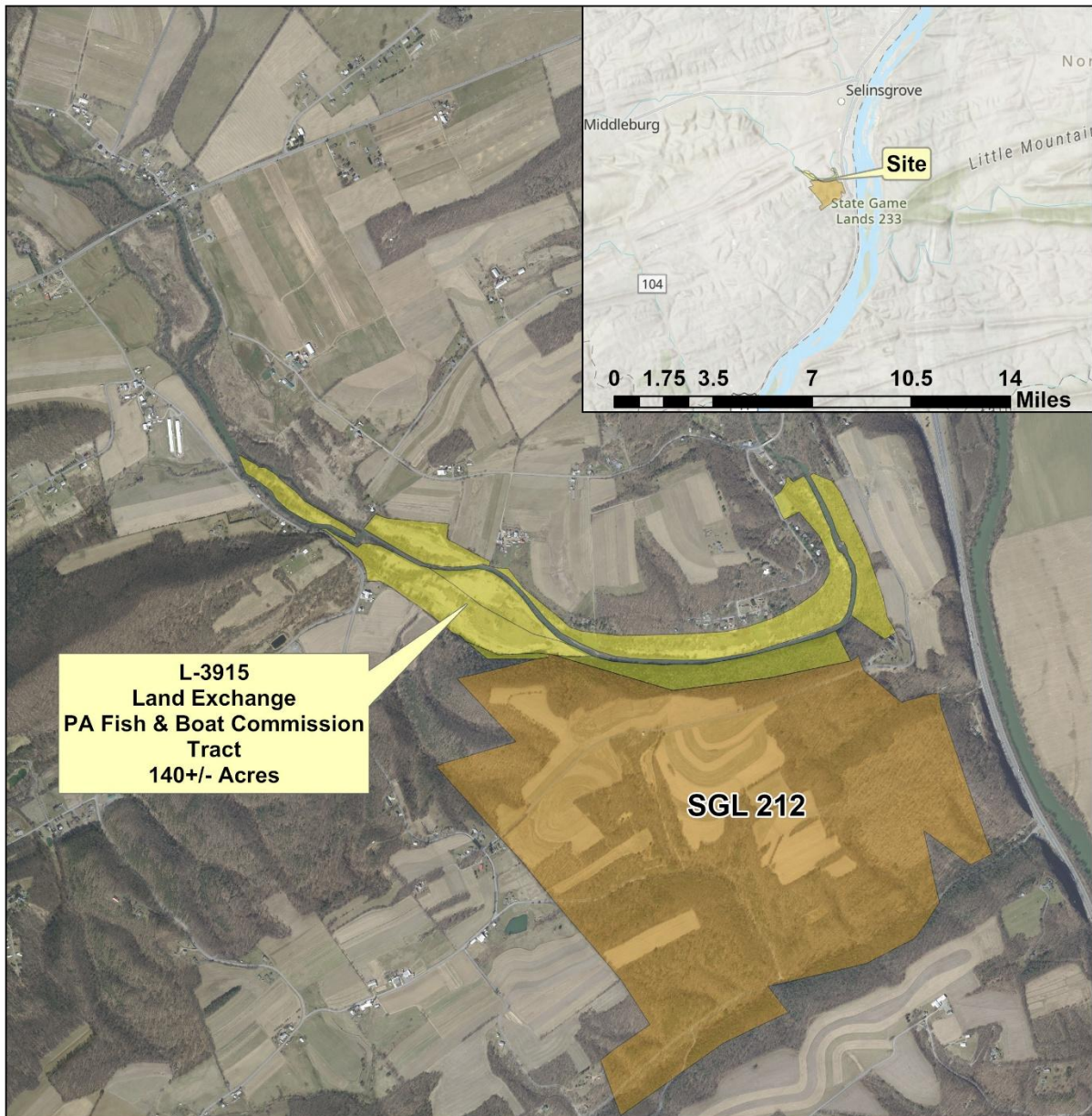


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Exhibit RED 6 State Game Land No. 65

**L-3915
Land Exchange
PGC to Flickerville Cross of
Fulton County Foundation Tract
16.0+/- Acres**

Brush Creek & Belfast Townships
Fulton County
Southcentral Region



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Exhibit RED 7 State Game Land No. 212

**L-3915
Land Exchange
PA Fish & Boat Commission Tract
140+/- Acres**

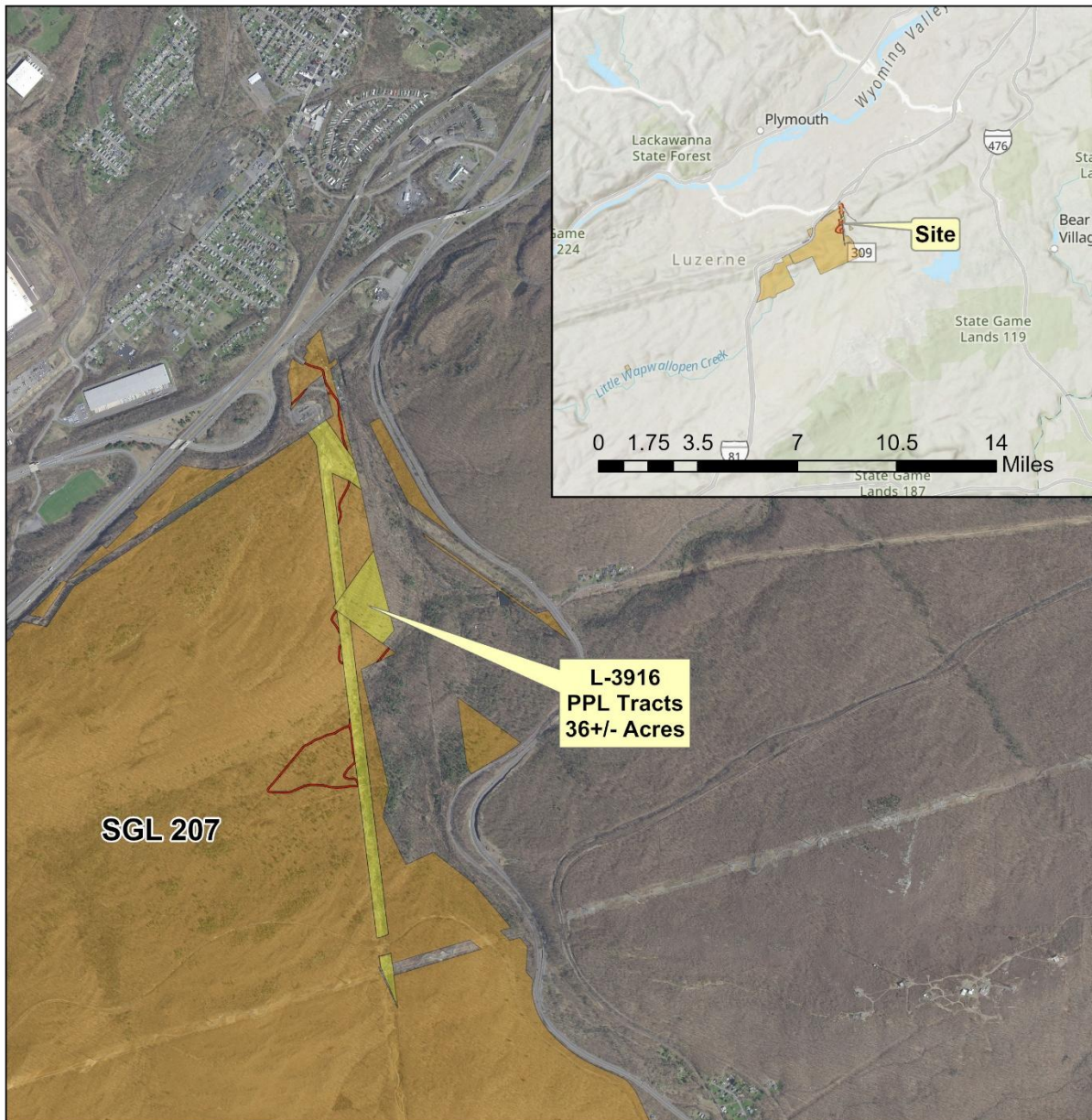
Washington, Penn & Union Townships
Snyder County
Southcentral Region

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Contract No. L-3916, State Game Land No. 207, Luzerne County

Commentary: PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (PPL) is offering 36+/- acres of land in Hanover Township, Luzerne County, adjoining State Game Land No. 207 (Exhibit RED 8), in exchange for a 2.88+/- acre, non-exclusive right-of-way on State Game Land No. 207 to allow PPL better access to their electric infrastructure. This exchange is authorized under Section 723(1) of the Game and Wildlife Code (34 Pa.C.S. § 723(1)). PPL is excepting and reserving an electric line easement to support their continued operation and maintenance of electric lines and appurtenant equipment located throughout the acreage being conveyed. Commission staff determined the 36+/- acres to be conveyed to the Commission is of greater value than the 2.88+/- acre right-of-way to be granted to PPL, and that the proposed exchange is in the best interest of the Commission. This exchange improves property integrity and manageability of State Game Land No. 207 by resolving numerous boundary line issues.

Action:



— 2.88+/- Acres, non-exclusive
Right-of-Way to be Granted to PPL

0 1,000 2,000 4,000 6,000
US Feet

Exhibit RED 8

State Game Land No. 207

L-3916
Exchange
PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (PPL) Tracts
36+/- Acres

Hanover Township
Luzerne County
Northeast Region

Other New Business

Next Commission Meeting – January 30 -31, 2026

Adjournment

