

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION**



**AGENDA
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
April 13, 2024**

Bryan Burhans

Bryan Burhans
Executive Director

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DRAFT

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Game Commission

Agenda

The Commission Meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Commissioners

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

Approval of Minutes of Commission Meetings held January 27, 2024.

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 141.28.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Commission, at its January 27, 2024 meeting, amended § 141.28 (relating to wild pheasant recovery areas) to eliminate age restriction and permit requirements and provide the Director the authority to annually designate WPRAs to be opened to hunting and establish appropriate season dates and bag limits. As a result of this regulatory change, all individuals eligible to hunt pheasants statewide would also be allowed to participate in pheasant hunting within WPRAs, subject to landowner permission. This amendment is now before the Commission for final adoption.

Action:

ANNEX “A”

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter B. SMALL GAME

§ 141.28. Wild pheasant recovery areas.

* * * * *

(b) *Prohibitions.* It is unlawful to:

(1) Release artificially propagated pheasants any time within any area designated as a WPRA.

(2) Hunt pheasants within any area designated as a WPRA, except the Director may authorize limited pheasant hunting opportunities in one or more WPRAs. During any year pheasant hunting opportunities are authorized in one or more WPRAs, the Director will designate the WPRAs where the season will be established, the dates of the season, and the daily bag limit.

DRAFT

B. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 139.4.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Commission, at its January 27, 2024 meeting, amended § 139.4 (relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year) to provide updated seasons and bag limits for the 2024-2025 license year. This amendment is now before the Commission for final adoption.

Action:

DRAFT

ANNEX "A"

§ 139.4 Seasons and bag limits for the license year.

2024-2025 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) ¹ Eligible Junior Hunters only, with or without the required junior license	Sept. 14	Sept. 28	6	18
<i>Squirrel</i> – (Combined species) ²	Sept. 14 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 and Nov. 18 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 and Dec. 16 and Dec. 26	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24 Feb. 28, 2025	6	18
<i>Ruffed Grouse</i> ²	Oct. 19 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 and Nov. 18 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 and Dec. 16	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24	2	6
<i>Rabbit, Cottontail</i> ¹ Eligible Junior Hunters only, with or without the required junior license	Oct. 5	Oct. 19	4	12
<i>Rabbit, Cottontail</i> ²	Oct. 19 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 and Nov. 18 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 and Dec. 16 and Dec. 26	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24 Feb. 28, 2025	4	12

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
Ring-necked Pheasant Central Susquehanna and Franklin County Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas Male only ¹	As authorized by the Executive Order			
Ring-necked Pheasant – Male or Female ¹ Junior License Holders and Mentored Permit Holders ⁹	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	2	6
Ring-necked Pheasant – Male or Female ²	Oct. 26 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 and Nov. 18 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 and Dec. 16 and Dec. 26	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24 Feb. 28, 2025	2	6
Bobwhite Quail – There is no open season for the taking of bobwhite quail in the area surrounding the Letterkenny Bobwhite Quail Focus Area, as designated in §141.30 (relating to bobwhite quail recovery area).				
Bobwhite Quail ²	Sept. 2 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 and Nov. 18 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 and Dec. 16 and Dec. 26	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24 Mar. 31, 2025	Unlimited	
Snowshoe or Varying Hare ¹	Dec. 26	Jan. 1, 2025	1	3
Woodchuck (Groundhog) ²	July 1 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 and Nov. 18 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 and Dec. 16	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 June 30, 2025	Unlimited	

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
<i>Crow</i> ³ (Hunting permitted on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday only)	Aug. 22	Mar. 23, 2025	Unlimited	
<i>Starling and English Sparrow</i> ³	No closed season, except season closed during the regular firearms deer seasons.		Unlimited	

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.¹

WILD TURKEY

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
<i>Turkey, Fall - Male or Female</i> ¹			1	1
WMUs 1A, 2G, 3A, 4A, 4B, and 4D	Nov. 2	Nov. 16		
WMUs 1B, 3D, 4C, and 4E	Nov. 2	Nov. 9		
WMUs 2A, 2F, 3B, and 3C	Nov. 2 and Nov. 27	Nov. 16 and Nov. 29		
WMU 2B, 2C, 2D, and 2E	Nov. 2 and Nov. 27	Nov. 22 and Nov. 29		
WMUs 5A and 5B	Nov. 2	Nov. 5		
WMUs 5C and 5D	Closed to fall turkey hunting			
<i>Turkey, Spring</i> ¹ Bearded Bird only, Eligible Junior Hunters only, with the required junior license	Apr. 26, 2025	Apr. 26, 2025	1	1
<i>Turkey, Spring</i> ^{1,4} Bearded Bird only	May 3, 2025 and May 19, 2025	May 17, 2025 and May 31, 2025	1	2
			May be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise to 12 noon	
			May be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	

FALCONRY

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
<i>Squirrel</i> – (Combined species) ²	Sept. 2	Nov. 16	6	18
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	and Nov. 25	Nov. 30		
	and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	and Dec. 2	Mar. 31, 2025		
<i>Quail</i> ²	Sept. 2	Nov. 16	Unlimited	
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	and Nov. 25	Nov. 30		
	and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	and Dec. 2	Mar. 31, 2025		
<i>Ruffed Grouse</i> ²	Sept. 2	Nov. 16	2	6
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	and Nov. 25	Nov. 30		
	and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	and Dec. 2	Mar. 31, 2025		
<i>Cottontail Rabbits</i> ²	Sept. 2	Nov. 16	4	12
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	and Nov. 25	Nov. 30		
	and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	and Dec. 2	Mar. 31, 2025		

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
<i>Snowshoe or Varying Hare</i> ²	Sept. 2	Nov. 16	1	3
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	and Nov. 25	Nov. 30		
	and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	and Dec. 2	Mar. 31, 2025		
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant - Male</i> ² <i>and Female</i> (Combined)	Sept. 2	Nov. 16	2	6
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	and Nov. 25	Nov. 30		
	and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	and Dec. 2	Mar. 31, 2025		
<i>Mink, Muskrat, Fox, Opossum, Raccoon, Striped Skunk, and Weasel</i> ²	Sept. 2	Nov. 16	Unlimited	
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	and Nov. 25	Nov. 30		
	and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	and Dec. 2	Mar. 31, 2025		

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

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
Deer, Archery (Antlered and Antlerless) ^{2,5} With the required archery license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Sept. 21	Nov. 16	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	
	Nov. 18	Nov. 23	
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	
	Nov. 25	Nov. 29	
Deer, Archery (Antlered and Antlerless) ^{2,5} With the required archery license WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B	Dec. 26	Jan. 25, 2025	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
	Oct. 5	Nov. 16	
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	
	Nov. 18	Nov. 22	
Deer, Muzzleloading (Antlerless only) ¹ With the required muzzleloading license	Dec. 26	Jan. 20, 2025	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	
Deer, Special firearms (Antlerless only) Only Junior and Senior License Holders ⁶ Mentored Permit Holders ⁹ , 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 United States Coast Guard	Oct. 24	Oct. 26	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Regular Firearms (Antlered and Antlerless) ^{2,5} Statewide	Nov. 30	Nov. 30	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	
	Dec. 2	Dec. 14	
Deer, Flintlock (Antlered or Antlerless) ^{1,5} With the required muzzleloading license WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B	Dec. 26	Jan. 20, 2025	One antlered or one antlerless deer, plus an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Flintlock (Antlered or Antlerless) ^{1,5} With the required muzzleloading license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Dec. 26	Jan. 25, 2025	One antlered or one antlerless deer, plus an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
<i>Deer, Extended Regular firearms (Antlerless)</i> ¹ WMUs 2B, 5C, and 5D	Dec. 26	Jan. 25, 2025	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Antlerless</i> ¹ (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

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
<i>Bear, Archery</i> ^{2,7} WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Sept. 21	Nov. 16	1
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	
	and Nov. 18	and Nov. 23	
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	
	and Nov. 25	and Nov. 29	
<i>Bear, Archery</i> ^{2,7} WMU 5B	Oct. 5	Nov. 16	1
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	
	and Nov. 18	and Nov. 22	
<i>Bear, Archery</i> ^{1,7} WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 5A	Oct. 19	Nov. 9	1
<i>Bear, Muzzleloader</i> ^{1,7} (Statewide)	Oct. 24	Oct. 26	1
<i>Bear, Special firearms</i> ⁷ Only Junior and Senior License Holders ⁶ , Mentored Permit Holders ⁹ , 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 in the United States Coast Guard (Statewide)	Oct. 24	Oct. 26	1

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
<i>Bear, Regular Firearms</i> ^{2,7} (Statewide)	Nov. 23 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and Nov. 25	Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 26	1
<i>Bear, Extended firearms</i> ^{2,7} WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C, and 5D	Nov. 30 and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 and Dec. 2	Nov. 30 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Dec. 14	1
<i>Bear, Extended firearms</i> ^{2,7} WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4E and 5A	Nov. 30 and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 and Dec. 2	Nov. 30 Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 Dec. 7	1

ELK

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
<i>Elk, Special Conservation Tag</i> ^{1,8} <i>and Special-License Tag</i> ^{1,8} (Antlered and Antlerless)	Sept. 2	Nov. 9	1
<i>Elk, Archery</i> ^{1,8} (Antlered and Antlerless)	Sept. 14	Sept. 28	1
<i>Elk, Regular</i> ^{1,8} (Antlered and Antlerless)	Nov. 4	Nov. 9	1
<i>Elk, Late</i> ^{1,8} (Antlered and Antlerless)	Dec. 28	Jan. 4, 2025	1

FUR TAKING – TRAPPING

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
<i>Mink and Muskrat</i>	Nov. 23	Jan. 12, 2025	Unlimited	
<i>Beaver</i>	Dec. 21	Mar. 31, 2025		
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, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B (Combined)			5	5

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
<i>Coyote, Fox, Opossum, Raccoon, Striped Skunk and Weasel</i>	Oct. 26	Feb. 23, 2025	Unlimited
<i>Coyote and Fox</i> Use of cable restraint devices authorized with required certification	Dec. 26	Feb. 23, 2025	Unlimited
<i>Bobcat, with required bobcat permit</i> WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Dec. 21	Jan. 12, 2025	1
<i>Fisher, with required fisher permit</i> WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Dec. 21	Jan. 12, 2025	1
<i>River Otter, with required otter permit</i> WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3B, 3C, 3D and 4E	Feb. 15, 2025	Feb. 22, 2025	1

FUR TAKING – HUNTING

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
<i>Coyote – (Outside of any big game season)</i> ³	May be taken with a hunting license or a furtaker’s license.		Unlimited	
<i>Coyote – (During any big game season)</i>	May be taken while lawfully hunting big game or with a furtaker’s license.		Unlimited	
<i>Opossum, Striped Skunk, Weasel</i> ²	July 1	Nov. 16	Unlimited	
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		May be hunted any hour, day or night, on open dates from July 1 – Nov. 29 and Dec. 15- June 30, 2025. May only be hunted from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise from Nov. 30–Dec. 14
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	and Nov. 25	Nov. 30		
	and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	and Dec. 2	June 30, 2025		
<i>Fox</i> ³	Oct. 26	Feb. 22, 2025	Unlimited	May be hunted any hour, day or night, from Oct. 26 – Nov. 29 and Dec. 15 – Feb. 22, 2025. May only be hunted from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise from Nov. 30–Dec. 14

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
Raccoon ²	Oct. 26	Nov. 16		Unlimited
	and			
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		May be hunted any hour, day or night, on open dates from Oct. 26 – Nov. 29 and Dec. 15 – Feb. 22, 2025. May only be hunted from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise from Nov. 30–Dec. 14
	and			
	Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and			
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
and				
Nov. 25	Nov. 30			
and				
Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1			
and				
Dec. 2	Feb. 22, 2025			
Bobcat, with required bobcat permit ¹ WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Jan. 11, 2025	Feb. 5, 2025	1	1
Porcupine ²	Oct. 12	Nov. 16	3	10
	and			
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	and			
	Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and			
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
and				
Nov. 25	Nov. 29			
and				
Dec. 16	Dec. 24			
and				
Dec. 26	Feb. 1, 2025			

No open seasons on other wild birds or wild mammals.

¹ No hunting on Sunday authorized. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303 (relating to hunting on Sunday prohibited).

² Hunting on Sunday authorized on separately delineated Sunday dates only. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303.

³ Hunting on Sunday is authorized. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303.

⁴ Only persons who possess a special wild turkey license as provided for in 34 Pa.C.S. § 2709 (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.

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

⁶ Includes resident 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 34 Pa.C.S. § 2706 (relating to resident license and fee exemptions).

⁷ Only one bear may be taken during the hunting license year with the required bear license.

⁸ Only one elk may be taken during the hunting license year with the required elk license.

⁹ Includes mentored youth and mentored adults with a valid mentored hunter permit issued under Chapter 147, Subchapter X (relating to Special Permits; Mentored Hunting Program Permit).

C. American Marten Reintroduction and Management Plan

Commentary: The American marten (*Martes americana*) is a furbearer once commonly found in portions of Pennsylvania but extirpated from the Commonwealth in the early 1900s due to deforestation and unregulated harvest.

In accordance with Goal 1.3b of the Pennsylvania Game Commission Strategic Plan 2020-2023 and as authorized by the Commission at its July 9, 2022 meeting, Commission staff developed an American Marten Reintroduction and Management Plan for Pennsylvania. The plan outlines a long-term, 10-year strategy, to translocate the species back to the state and then conduct long-term monitoring to evaluate the reintroduction. Communication strategies, partner engagement, costs, and timelines are also included.

At its September 16, 2023 meeting, the Commission authorized release of the proposed American Marten Reintroduction and Management Plan for a 60-day public comment period. At its January 27, 2024 meeting, the Commission tabled the proposed American Marten Reintroduction and Management Plan to allow for collection of additional information on habitat and human dimensions elements of the potential reintroduction.

All comments were considered and appropriate revisions to the plan were made. Staff compiled data confirming habitat suitability of potential reintroduction sites and clarified the underlying reasons for supportive or neutral attitudes towards marten reintroduction among respondents to hunter surveys. The Bureau of Wildlife Management is requesting final acceptance of the 2024-2033 American Marten Reintroduction and Management Plan.

Action:

INFORMATION RELEASE

D. Release of Information for National Trapper Survey

Commentary:

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) requested contact information for furtaker license holders in Pennsylvania for a National Trapper Survey being conducted in cooperation with Responsive Management. This will be the fourth iteration of this survey, which was previously conducted in 1992, 2004, and 2015. The goal of this study is to capture important information about trapping and trappers in the United States so that agencies can better understand and promote the activity for future generations to enjoy. Information gathered in this survey will also help agencies gauge the success of current efforts to recruit, retain, and reactivate trappers, plan future efforts to increase trapper participation, and guide future efforts of the Best Management Practices for Trapping program.

AFWA is requesting information for all individuals who held a Pennsylvania furtaker license (including lifetime license holders) during the 2021, 2022, and 2023 license years. The data specifically sought includes Customer Identification Number, license type, name, phone, e-mail, and street address. Section 325 of the Game and Wildlife Code generally restricts the release of customer licensing data, but an exception is permitted when the release of records or reports is “[a]uthorized by action of the commission for the sole purpose of exercising legitimate governmental function or duty.” The Commission has evaluated the records request and determined that it meets this exception and, if approved, will result in the return of valuable survey data that will enhance its trapping program within this Commonwealth. AFWA will itself be subject to applicable criminal and civil restrictions regarding any further publishing, circulation, or disclosure of any records that it receives from the Commission under this authorization.

Action:

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION

PROPOSED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 147.805.

Commentary: Since the mentored hunting program's initial inception in 2006, the program has gradually grown and expanded to include additional species of game and wildlife and age groups eligible to participate in the program. With each progressive expansion, the mentored hunting program has come into closer alignment to the Commission's traditional hunting license structures. The Commission is now proposing to amend § 147.805 (relating to safety) to allow a mentor to accompany up to three of any combination of mentored youth or mentored adults at a time. This maximum limit of three would also include any junior hunter present and otherwise requiring accompaniment by the mentor as required by 34 Pa.C.S. § 2711(a)(8) (relating to unlawful acts concerning licenses) when the person is also serving as a mentor. This change will not expand the one lawful hunting device limit for mentored youth, but it will allow mentored adults and junior hunters to possess their own hunting implement while accompanied by a common mentor. The Commission has evaluated the relevant safety data and determined that the amendments will not create an unreasonable safety risk to the general public or persons participating in the hunt.

CHAPTER 147. SPECIAL PERMITS

Subchapter X. MENTORED HUNTING PROGRAM

§ 147.805. Safety.

While engaged in mentored hunting activities:

(1) A mentored youth shall be stationary, within arms reach and subject to the immediate control of the mentor at all times while in possession of any lawful hunting device. This limitation may not be construed to apply to mentored adults. Mentored adults shall be accompanied by the mentor within eyesight and in close proximity so that verbal instruction and guidance can easily be understood without the aid of electronic communication devices or sound amplification devices.

(2) A mentor may not accompany more than ~~one~~ three mentored youth or mentored ~~adult~~ adults at any given time. A mentor may ~~not~~ accompany a junior hunter in addition to accompanying a mentored youth or mentored adult within the same maximum total of three. The authorizations of this paragraph are not intended to expand the lawful hunting device limitation set forth in subsection (3).

(3) A mentor and mentored youth may not collectively possess more than one lawful hunting device at any given time. This limitation may not be construed to apply to mentors

and mentored adults participating in the mentored adult hunting program or junior hunters joining a mentored youth hunt.

(4) A mentor and mentored youth or mentored adult shall each comply with section 2524 of the act (relating to protective material required) and with any regulations promulgated by the Commission relating to protective material.

Actions:

DRAFT

ADOPTED RULE MAKING

B. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 141.4.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Commission, at its January 27, 2024 meeting, amended § 141.4 (relating to hunting hours) 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 2024-2025 hunting/trapping license year.

Actions:

DRAFT

ANNEX "A"

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter A. GENERAL

§ 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.

* * * * *

DRAFT

Appendix G. HUNTING HOURS

**HUNTING HOURS TABLE
FOR JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025**

Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.	Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.
July 1 – 6	5:06	9:02	Jan. 5 – 11	6:52	5:20
July 7 – 13	5:13	8:59	Jan. 12 – 18	6:51	5:27
July 14 – 20	5:19	8:54	Jan. 19 – 25	6:48	5:34
July 21 – 27	5:25	8:48	Jan. 26 – Feb. 1	6:43	5:43
July 28 – Aug. 3	5:31	8:41	Feb. 2 – 8	6:37	5:51
Aug. 4 – 10	5:38	8:33	Feb. 9 – 15	6:30	5:59
Aug. 11 – 17	5:44	8:23	Feb. 16 – 22	6:21	6:08
Aug. 18 – 24	5:51	8:13	Feb. 23 – Mar. 1	6:12	6:16
Aug. 25 – 31	5:58	8:02	Mar. 2 – 8	6:01	6:23
Sept. 1 – 7	6:04	7:51	Mar. 9 – 15 *Begins	6:51	7:31
Sept. 8 – 14	6:11	7:40	Mar. 16 – 22	6:40	7:38
Sept. 15 – 21	6:17	7:28	Mar. 23 – 29	6:28	7:46
Sept. 22 – 28	6:24	7:16	Mar. 30 – Apr. 5	6:17	7:53
Sept. 29 – Oct. 5	6:31	7:05	Apr. 6 – 12	6:06	8:00
Oct. 6 – 12	6:38	6:54	Apr. 13 – 19	5:55	8:07
Oct. 13 – 19	6:45	6:44	Apr. 20 – 26	5:45	8:14
Oct. 20 – 26	6:53	6:34	Apr. 27 – May 3	5:35	8:21
Oct. 27 – Nov. 2	7:01	6:26	May 4 – 10	5:26	8:28
Nov. 3 – 9 **Ends	6:09	5:19	May 11 – 17	5:19	8:35
Nov. 10 – 16	6:17	5:13	May 18 – 24	5:12	8:42
Nov. 17 – 23	6:25	5:08	May 25 – 31	5:07	8:48
Nov. 24 – 30	6:32	5:06	June 1 – 7	5:03	8:53
Dec. 1 – 7	6:39	5:05	June 8 – 14	5:01	8:57
Dec. 8 – 14	6:44	5:06	June 15 – 21	5:01	9:01
Dec. 15 – 21	6:49	5:09	June 22 – 28	5:02	9:03
Dec. 22 – 28	6:51	5:13	June 29 – 30	5:04	9:03
Dec. 29 – Jan. 4	6:52	5:19	*Daylight Saving Time Begins * -Ends**		

**MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING HOURS TABLE
FOR JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025**

Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.	Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.
July 1 – 6	5:06	8:32	Jan. 5 – 11	6:52	4:50
July 7 – 13	5:13	8:29	Jan. 12 – 18	6:51	4:47
July 14 – 20	5:19	8:24	Jan. 19 – 25	6:48	5:04
July 21 – 27	5:25	8:18	Jan. 26 – Feb. 1	6:43	5:13
July 28 – Aug. 3	5:31	8:11	Feb. 2 – 8	6:37	5:21
Aug. 4 – 10	5:38	8:03	Feb. 9 – 15	6:30	5:29
Aug. 11 – 17	5:44	7:53	Feb. 16 – 22	6:21	5:38
Aug. 18 – 24	5:51	7:43	Feb. 23 – Mar. 1	6:12	5:46
Aug. 25 – 31	5:58	7:32	Mar. 2 – 8	6:01	5:53
Sept. 1 – 7	6:04	7:21	Mar. 9 – 15 *Begins	6:51	7:01
Sept. 8 – 14	6:11	7:10	Mar. 16 – 22	6:40	7:08
Sept. 15 – 21	6:17	6:58	Mar. 23 – 29	6:28	7:16
Sept. 22 – 28	6:24	6:46	Mar. 30 – Apr. 5	6:17	7:37
Sept. 29 – Oct. 5	6:31	6:35	Apr. 6 – 12	6:06	7:30
Oct. 6 – 12	6:38	6:24	Apr. 13 – 19	5:55	7:37
Oct. 13 – 19	6:45	6:14	Apr. 20 – 26	5:45	7:44
Oct. 20 – 26	6:53	6:04	Apr. 27 – May 3	5:35	7:51
Oct. 27 – Nov. 2	7:01	5:56	May 4 – 10	5:26	7:58
Nov. 3 – 9 **Ends	6:09	4:49	May 11 – 17	5:19	8:05
Nov. 10 – 16	6:17	4:43	May 18 – 24	5:12	8:12
Nov. 17 – 23	6:25	4:38	May 25 – 31	5:07	8:18
Nov. 24 – 30	6:32	4:36	June 1 – 7	5:03	8:23
Dec. 1 – 7	6:39	4:35	June 8 – 14	5:01	8:27
Dec. 8 – 14	6:44	4:36	June 15 – 21	5:01	8:37
Dec. 15 – 21	6:49	4:39	June 22 – 28	5:02	8:33
Dec. 22 – 28	6:51	4:43	June 29 – 30	5:04	8:33
Dec. 29 – Jan. 4	6:52	4:49	*Daylight Saving Time Begins * -Ends**		

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

REAL ESTATE

A. Acquisition

Contract No. L-3862, State Game Land No. 45, Venango County.

Commentary: John G. and Melissa L. Sabella are offering 200+/- acres of land in Rockland and Cranberry Townships, Venango County, adjacent to State Game Land No. 45 (Exhibit RED 1). The option price is \$467,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Commission's restricted account, representing funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on state game lands from previously approved projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. The North Country National Scenic Trail runs through the property. Access is through existing State Game Land No. 45 and from State Route 2002. This acquisition contains critical and unique riparian habitat of East Sandy Branch Creek, a stocked trout stream.

Action:

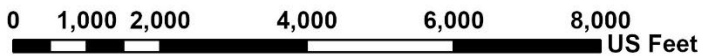
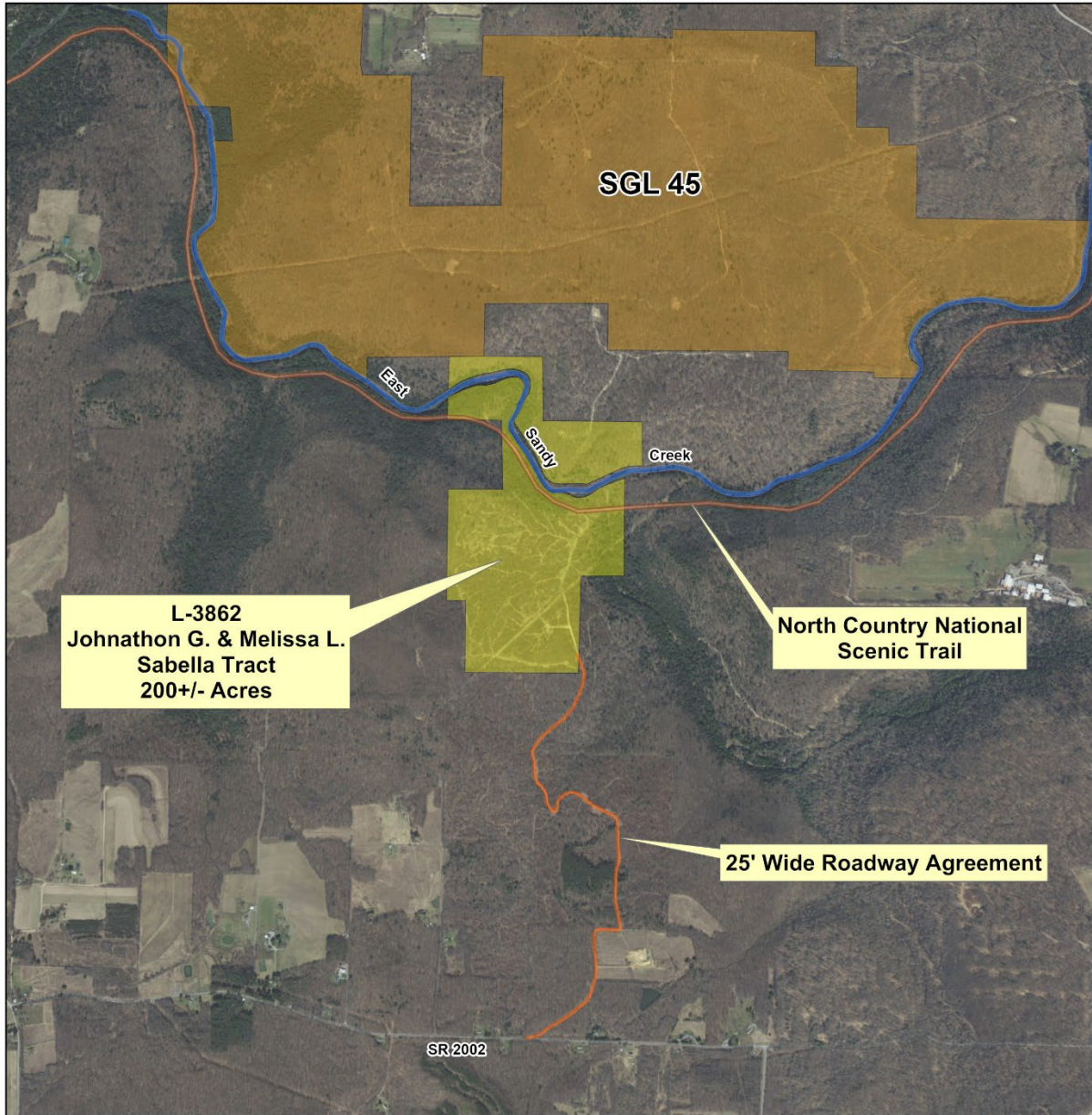


Exhibit RED 1

State Game Land No. 45

**L-3862
Johnathon G. & Melissa L. Sabella Tract
200+/- Acres**

Cranberry & Rockland Townships
Venango County
Northwest Region

Contract No. L-3863, State Game Land No. 166, Blair County.

Commentary:

The Estate of Betty J. Brenneman is offering 19.7+/- acres of land in Catherine Township, Blair County, adjacent to State Game Land No. 166 (Exhibit RED 2). The option price is \$50,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Commission's restricted account, representing funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on State game lands from previously approved projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. Access is from Beaver Dam Road. This acquisition improves property integrity and manageability of State Game Land No. 166 by connecting two existing tracts.

Action:

DRAFT

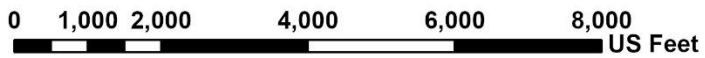
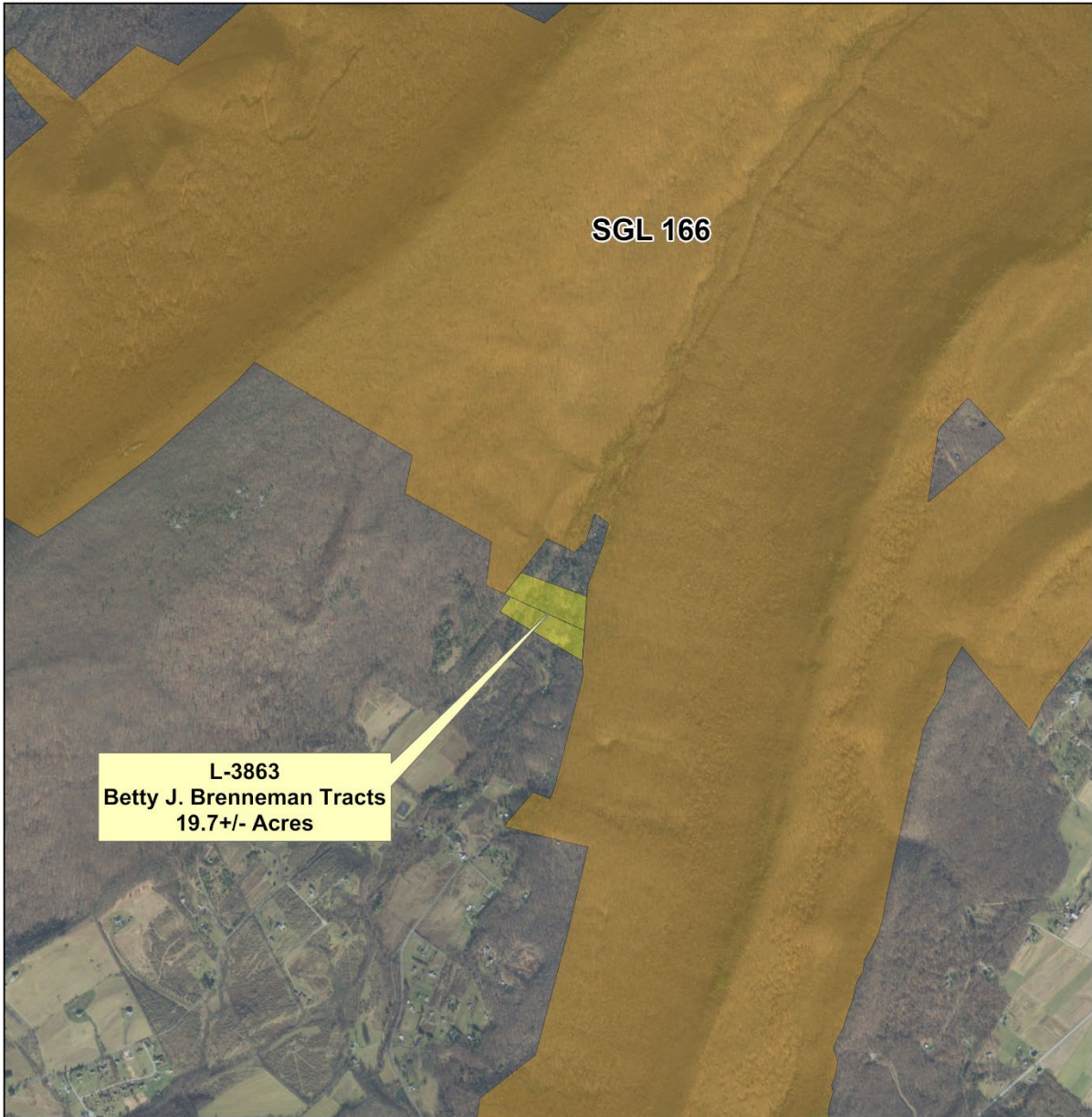


Exhibit RED 2
State Game Land No. 166

L-3863
Betty J. Brenneman Tracts
19.7+/- Acres

Catherine Township
Blair County
Southcentral Region

Contract No. L-3864, State Game Land No. 278, Blair County

Commentary: Adam James Clark is offering 67.07+/- acres of land in Snyder Township, Blair County, an indenture into State Game Land No. 278 (Exhibit RED 3). The option price is \$138,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Fund. The parcel is an indenture to State Game Land No. 278 and therefore the Commission may exceed \$400 per acre under section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code. Access is through existing State Game Land No. 278. This acquisition improves property integrity and manageability of State Game Land No. 278 by clearing an indenture and connecting two existing tracts.

Action:

DRAFT

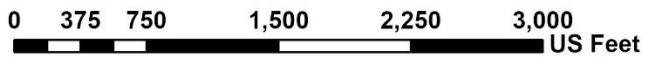


Exhibit RED 3
State Game Land No. 278

L-3864
Adam James Clark Tract
67.07+/- Acres

Snyder Township
Blair County
Southcentral Region

Contract No. L-3866, State Game Land No. 61, McKean County

Commentary: Denis E. and Sharon A. Mora are offering 23.5+/- acres of land in Liberty Township, McKean County, adjoining State Game Land No. 61 (Exhibit RED 8). The option price is \$64,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Commission's restricted account, representing funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on State game lands from previously approved projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. Access is from Old Bush Mill Road. This acquisition improves public access to and the Commission's ability to manage State Game Land No. 61.

Action:

DRAFT

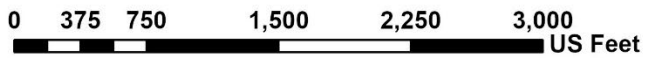


Exhibit RED 8
State Game Land No. 61

L-3866
Denis E. & Sharon A. Mora Tract
23.5+/- Acres

Liberty Township
McKean County
Northcentral Region

B. Exchange

Contract No. L-3865, State Game Land No. 335, Tioga County

Commentary:

Rachel M. Stone is offering 0.25+/- acres of land adjoining State Game Land No. 335 to the Commission in exchange for a 0.13+/- acre, non-exclusive right-of-way on State Game Land No. 335 to access the remaining Stone land, all of which is located in Union Township, Tioga County (Exhibit RED 4). The right-of-way will be conditioned to protect the Commission's interests, including a restriction on future buildings on the remaining Stone land that could result in additional safety zones. As such, the Commission determined that the 0.25+/- acres to be conveyed to the Commission is of greater value than the 0.13+/- acre right-of-way to be granted to Stone, 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. 335 by resolving a boundary line issue.

Action:

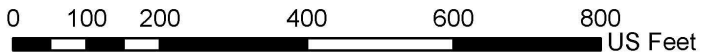
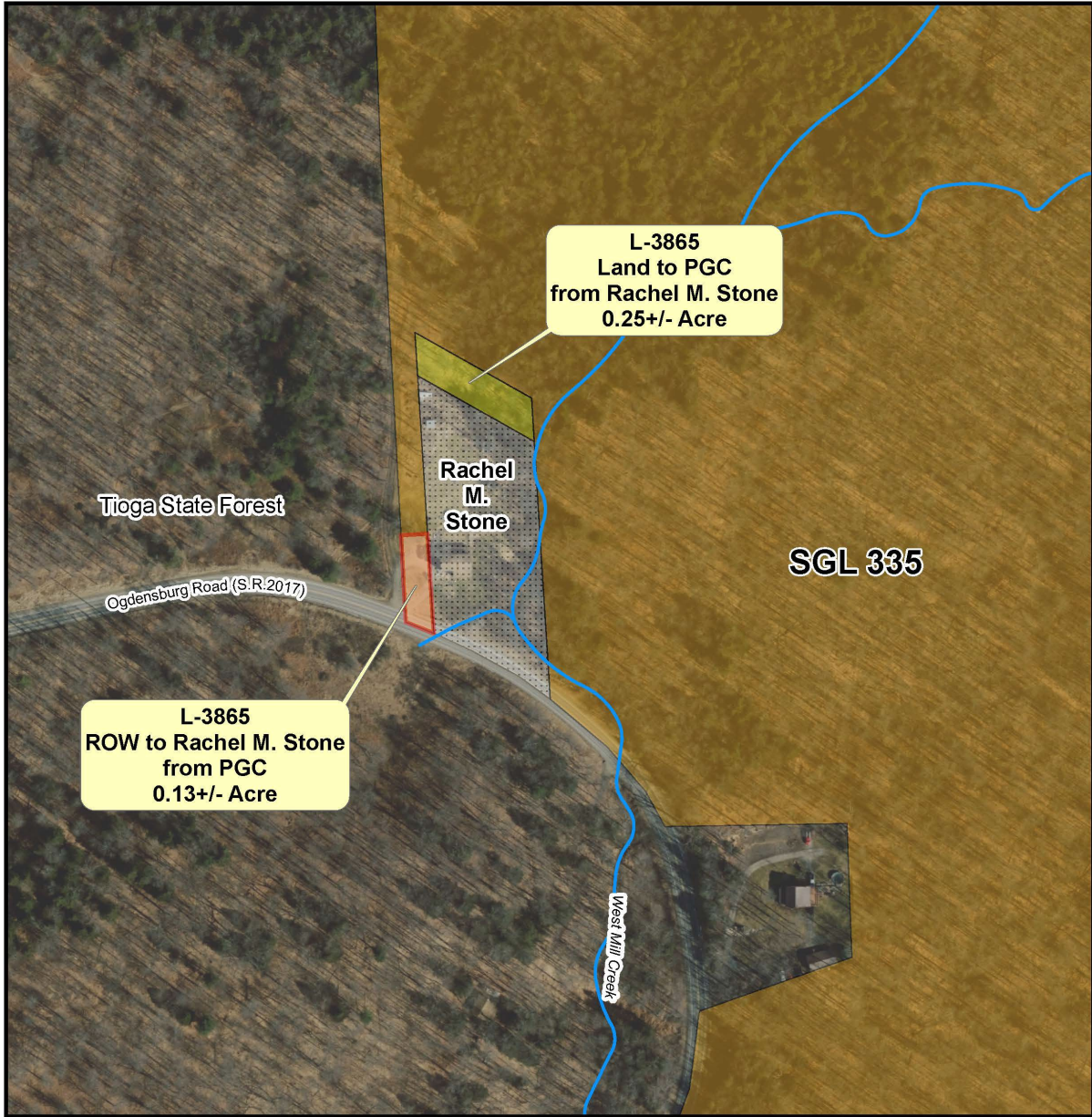


Exhibit RED 4
State Game Land No. 335
L-3865
ROW-Land Exchange
0.13+/- Acre ROW to Rachel M. Stone
0.25+/- Acre of Land to PGC
 Union Township
 Tioga County
 Northcentral Region

C. Dedication of Borough Street

State Game Land No. 120, Irvona Borough, Clearfield County

Commentary:

The Irvona Borough Council in Clearfield County requested that a right-of-way for a borough street be dedicated as a public road (Exhibit RED 5). The roadway is 25 feet in width and travels a total of 737+/- feet across State Game Land No. 120. The road is currently a State game lands road open to public travel and services a number of private properties. Dedicating the road to the Borough will eliminate maintenance obligations for the Commission, will resolve future conflicts with access to the private properties, and will allow for more efficient provision of public utilities in the area.

Action:

DRAFT

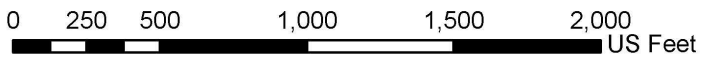


Exhibit RED 5
State Game Land No. 120
Swank Street Dedication
to Irvona Borough

Irvona Borough
 Clearfield County
 Southwest Region

D. Informational Items

Notational Vote

Contract L-3859, State Game Land No. 106, Berks County

Commentary: On February 28, 2024, the Board of Commissioners approved, by notational vote, the offer from William C. and Casey J. Kunkel of 50.7+/- acres of land in Albany Township, Berks County, an indenture into State Game Land No. 106 (Exhibit RED 6). The option price is \$224,272.97 lump sum to be paid from the Game Fund. The parcel is an indenture into State Game Land No. 106 and therefore the Commission may exceed \$400 per acre under section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code. Access is through existing State Game Land No. 106. This acquisition improves property integrity and manageability of State Game Land No. 106 by clearing an indenture and straightening the existing boundary.

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

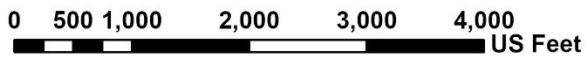
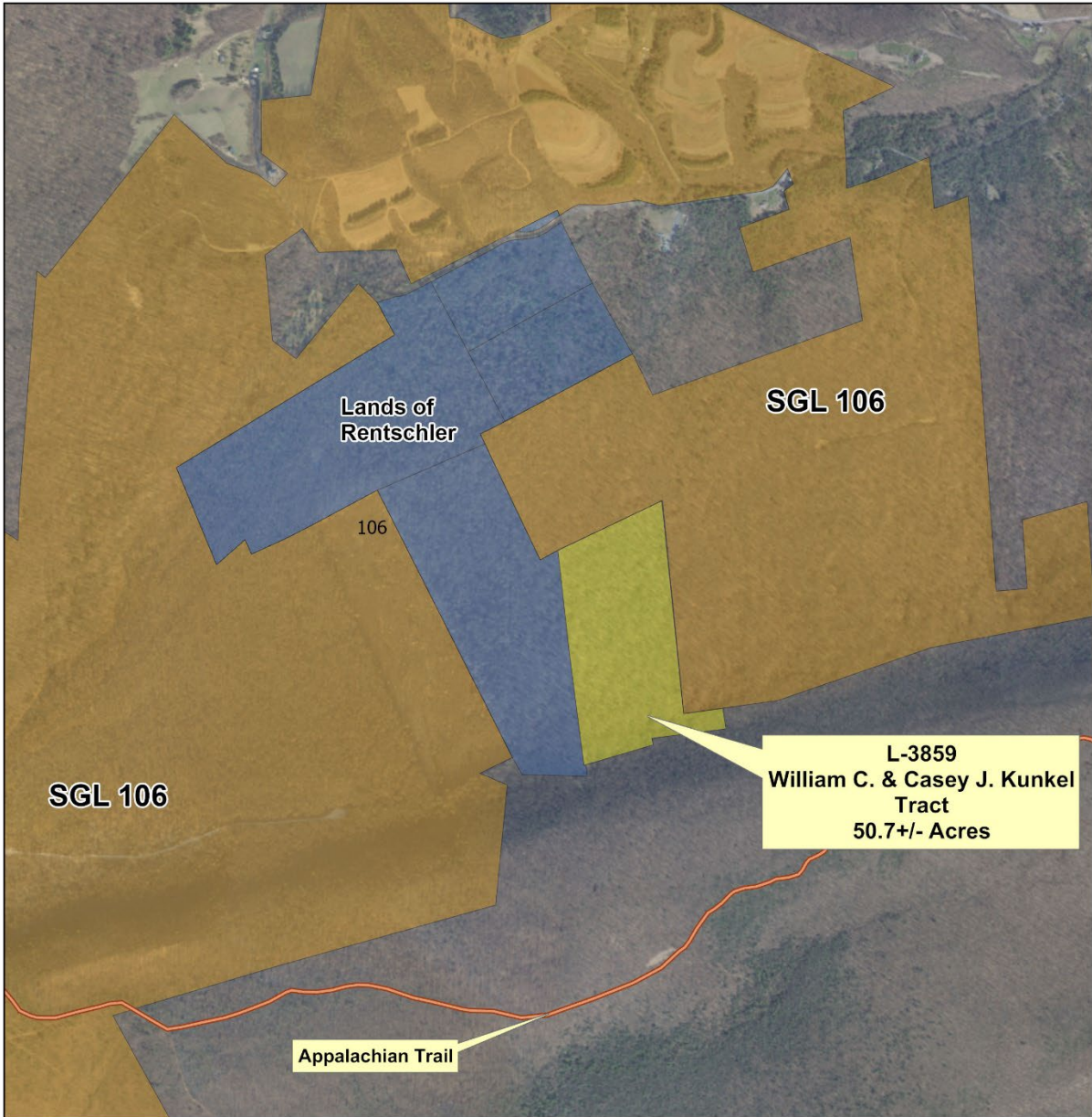


Exhibit RED 6

State Game Land No. 106

L-3859
 William C. & Casey J. Kunkel Tract
 50.7+/- Acres

Albany Township
 Berks County
 Southeast Region

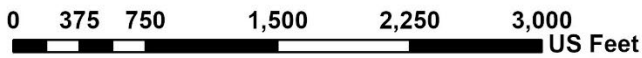
Notational Vote

Contract L-3860, State Game Land No. 106, Berks County.

Commentary: On February 28, 2024, the Board of Commissioners approved, by notational vote, the offer from Lois A. and Barry Rentschler of 197.97+/- acres of land in Albany Township, Berks County, an indenture into State Game Land No. 106 (Exhibit RED 7). The option price is \$875,726.23 lump sum to be paid from the Game Fund. The parcel is an indenture into State Game Land No. 106 and therefore the Commission may exceed \$400 per acre under section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code. Access is from Pine Swamp Road. This acquisition improves property integrity and manageability of State Game Land No. 106 by clearing an indenture and straightening the existing boundary.

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

DRAFT



L-3860
 Lois A. & Barry Rentschler
 Tracts
 197.97+/- Acres Total

Exhibit RED 7

State Game Land No. 106

L-3860
 Lois A. & Barry Rentschler Tracts
 197.97+/- Acres Total

Albany Township
 Berks County
 Southeast Region

OIL/GAS & MINERALS

A. Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement

Tract 245A-24, State Game Land No. 245, Washington County

Commentary: CNX Resources Corporation (CNX) of Canonsburg, PA requested the Commission offer its oil and gas rights under portions of State Game Land No. 245 for non-surface use development. The proposed tract, containing approximately 113+/- net acres, is located in West Finley Township, Washington County (Exhibit OGM 1).

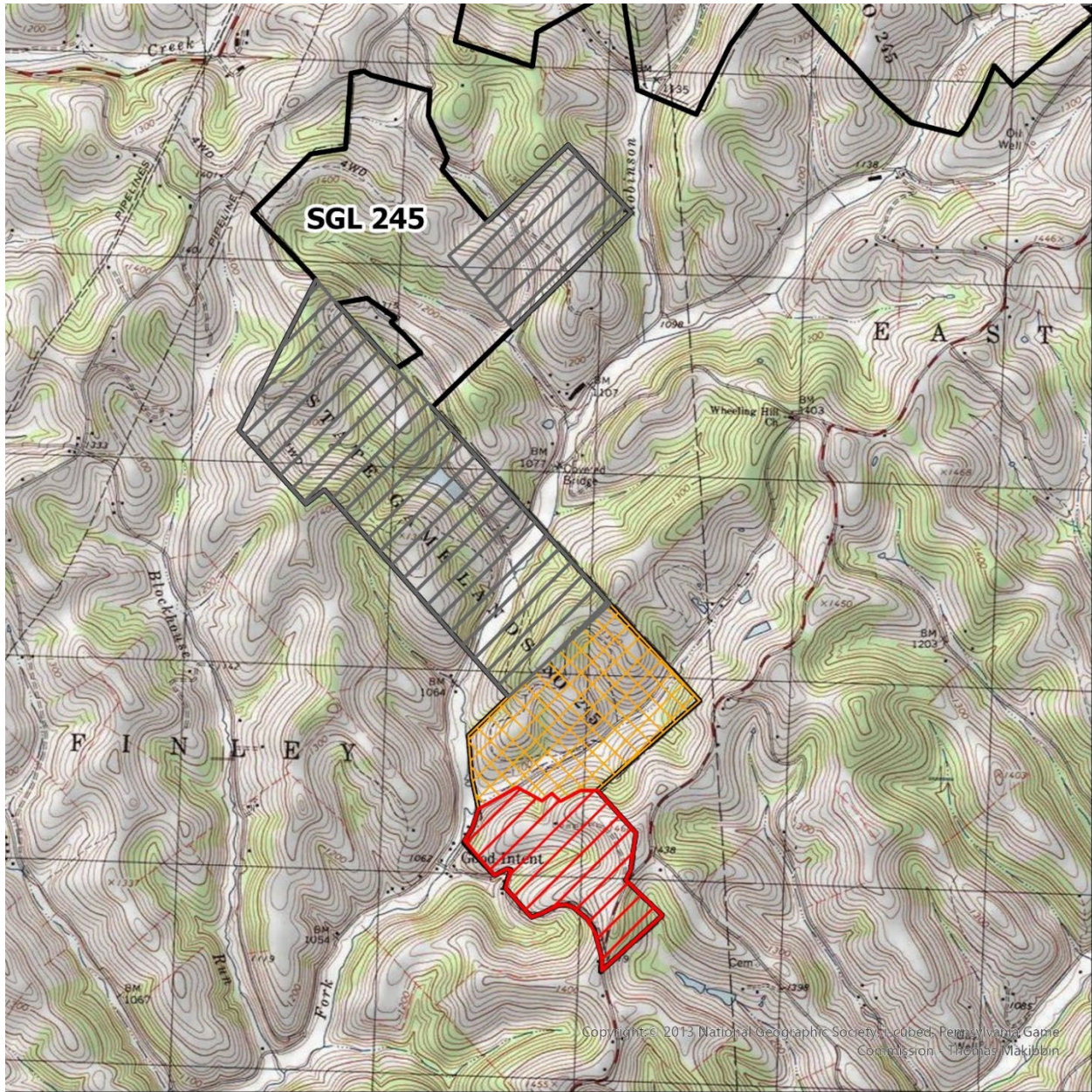
CNX will access the 113-acre reserves from its current and planned drilling operations on adjacent areas off State Game Land No. 245 by horizontal drilling with no additional surface use or disturbance to the Game Lands. OGM staff negotiated the proposed terms of the agreement with CNX to prudently develop the Commission's oil/gas reserve and simultaneously protect the wildlife resources and recreational use of State Game Land No. 245.

The terms of the Agreement are a six (6) year paid up non-surface use oil and gas agreement, a \$4,000 per net oil and gas acre bonus payment and 19% royalty for all oil/gas and other liquids or condensates produced and sold from the proposed tract.

The bonus payment of \$452,000 and any rental payments will be deposited into the Commission's restricted account for the future purchase of wildlife habitats, lands, or other uses incidental to hunting, furtaking, and wildlife resource management. Future royalties owed the Commission will 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 non-surface use oil and gas cooperative agreement.

Action:



Legend





-  Proposed Non-Surface Use Agreement Area 113 +/- Acres
-  Areas Under Current Oil and Gas Agreements
-  PGC Does Not Own Oil and Gas Rights
-  State Game Land No. 245



Exhibit OGM 1

**State Game Land No. 245
Non-Surface Use
Oil & Gas Cooperative Agreement
CNX Resources Corporation
Tract 245A-24
113 +/- Acres**

West Finley Township, Washington County
Southwest Region

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

2024 Commission Meeting Dates – July 12-13 and September 20-21.

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

Adjournment

DRAFT