

<p style="text-align: center;">PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT MAMMAL AREA #41 Delaware Water Gap/Pocono Environmental Education Center</p>
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COUNTY(IES) Monroe, Pike

APPROX. SIZE 28,789 acres

OWNERSHIP Public (Federal)

REASON FOR SELECTION

- Supports significant populations of species or subspecies with specific habitat requirements
- Contains a rare, threatened, or unique habitat type important to mammals
- Includes a habitat type that supports significant aggregations of mammals during one or more seasons
- Supports important core populations or population segments
- 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 IMA is located along the eastern border of PA, between I-84 and I-80. Dominated by deciduous forests, the area also has coniferous and mixed woodlands. The site includes the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC)

MAMMAL NOTES

This IMA has a great diversity of mammals that characterize the Pocono region, with a suite of carnivores that includes black bear, bobcat, and northern river otter. A unique feature is a largely unmanaged beaver population. Allegheny woodrats have been recorded, as well as colonies of little brown and big brown myotis. Surveys for snowshoe hare are needed. The Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) has an active beaver colony that is the centerpiece for educational programs serving approximately 20,000 students/year. Northern river otter and mink

can also be observed, and the site has potential for additional development as a "watchable wildlife" site. PEEC also has a bat education program.

CONSERVATION NOTES

Approximately 100 plant species of special concern occur in the area, which is also home to bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and osprey. IBA #60 is nearby (Upper Delaware Scenic River).