

Seneca Highlands Conservancy, Inc.  
800 Minard Run Road  
Bradford, Pennsylvania 16701

March 3, 1987

PRESS RELEASE

The Seneca Highlands Conservancy, Inc., a non-profit Corporation active in land conservation in northern Pennsylvania, announced today that the Pennsylvania Game Commission has accepted an option to purchase the 900 acre "Gittelman" farm near Port Allegany, Pa. to serve as the cornerstone for a new addition to the state's Game Lands system.

The Gittelman property comprises an entire stream valley roughly 3 miles south of the Borough of Port Allegany, and includes several hundred acres of old fields, as well as a substantial amount of timberland. The property supports a wide variety of game and native vegetation, and can be expected to be managed specifically for wildlife under the Game Commission's ownership. Additional land is being sought in the area, with the total project size being dependant on the cost of the lands involved, and the Game Commission's budgetary constraints.

This property was optioned by the Gittelmans to the Seneca Highlands Conservancy late last August, at which time the Conservancy offered the option to the State Game Commission. The option was then exercised after approval by the Game Commission's Executive Committee on January 13, 1987. Final closing and formal transfer of the property to state ownership is anticipated within 6 months, and will proceed as soon as the necessary surveys and title examinations have been completed.

This acquisition marks the second time in 3 years in which the Seneca Highlands Conservancy has been able to arrange for the formation of a new State Game Lands. The first involved a 4 mile stretch of wetlands along the Allegheny River south of Eldred Pennsylvania. This project, now designated officially as State Game Lands No. 301, is nearing it's half-way mark, as the state has now accepted close to 1000 acres of the project's anticipated eventual 2000 acre area. Additional purchases are continuing at a fairly gradual pace, and thus the project may not be totally completed for several years. All property acquisitions involved in these projects are voluntary, and thus must be handled slowly while maintaining local support for the Conservancy's efforts.

The Game Lands no. 301 project is particularly interesting because it is focused on protecting the unique environmental attributes of the Allegheny River's floodplain. This land, which by law cannot be developed due to its propensity to flood regularly, supports a large and diverse population of wildlife, trees, shrubs and flowers. There are currently very few places in the State Game Lands system where such lands are protected, and the formation of this unit helps to focus attention on the environmental value of such economically "worthless" lands.



The Seneca Highlands Conservancy was founded in 1983 by several Bradford attorneys, and is currently headed by John F. Young. Additional information on the Conservancy's activities can be obtained by contacting any of the following individuals:

John F. Young, President  
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Robert J. Rea, District Land Manager  
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Frederick J. Young, Secretary  
Seneca Highlands Conservancy, Inc.  
800 Minard Run Road  
Bradford, Pa. 16701 (814) 368 - 3798

Enclosed please find the following additional information:

- 1) A copy of the official notification received by the Conservancy from the Game Commission regarding the Gittelman acquisition.
- 2) A map showing the "Gittelman" property, located 3 miles south of Port Allegany, Pa., west of State Route 155. (McKean County)
- 3) A map showing the current status of State Game Lands no. 301, located along the Allegheny River south of Eldred, Pa. (McKean County)

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance. We are interested in any help you can give us publicizing these new additions to the State Game Lands system. Often it takes several years before acquisitions of this sort become well known to the public, and we are hoping to speed up the process.

Very Truly Yours,

John F. Young  
Seneca Highlands Conservancy, Inc.

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