



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589



September 1, 2023

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/WSFR/IR05

Bryan Burhans, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Game Commission
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

Dear Mr. Burhans:

We have recently become aware of Pennsylvania House Bill 1300 that if enacted, would transfer revenue derived from gas and oil leases on State Game Lands from the Game Fund to the Clean Streams Fund.

As you are aware, a large portion of Pennsylvania's State Game Lands system was purchased and is managed with Federal grant funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Grant Program (PR-Wildlife Restoration Program) and/or revenue from the sale of Pennsylvania hunting licenses, permits, tags, access fees and use fees (license revenue). Requirements regarding use of these funding sources are codified in Federal statute and regulation at 16 USC § 669-669k and 50 CFR § 80.

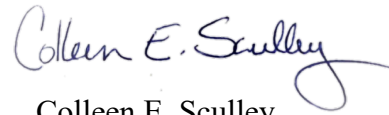
Income derived from a lease or fee to property acquired, constructed, managed, maintained or produced using license revenue is also considered license revenue (50 CFR § 80.20).

License revenue must be controlled by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) and used only for the administration of the PGC (50 CFR § 80.10(c)). If PGC loses control of license revenue or license revenue is used for purposes other than the administration of the PGC, the Service may declare your agency to be in diversion and ineligible to receive PR-Wildlife Restoration Program funding (50 CFR § 80.21).

Adherences to these Federal grant requirements are critical to maintaining long-term eligibility for PR-Wildlife Restoration Program funding (16 USC § 669-669k). In FY2023, PGC received \$41,067,392 in Federal grant funding under this program.

We appreciate PGC's strong stewardship and careful oversight of your license revenue and State Game Lands system to protect investments in wildlife conservation and wildlife-oriented recreation for the long-term. Please contact me if you have further questions at colleen_sculley@fws.gov; (413) 923-7095.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colleen E. Sculley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Colleen E. Sculley
Assistant Regional Director, Wildlife and
Sport Fish Restoration Program