

at any time without the landowners knowledge and permission, posted or not, to track a wounded animal, or as they may claim. Or even edict of the governor or legislation to allow hunting on private property without permission to address the current 'deer crisis' in Penna. Don't think it can't happen. Who would have ever thought we would see what's going on in our country today in terms of erosion of our civil liberties and our rights under the Constitution?

Our legislators had the opportunity to correct this violation of our Constitutional rights when Sunday hunting bills were passed in both the House and Senate in July but the majority chose to thumb their noses at the Constitution and the United States Supreme Court. Both bills died in the just ended legislative session but the bills will be introduced next month when the new

legislation session begins.

PA Legislators take an oath "I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States. The majority of our senators and representatives have chosen to ignore that oath. That has to change.

Every private property owner in the Commonwealth needs to contact their state representative and state senator and demand that their constitutional rights as a property owner are restored.

Section 2314 (b) of the Game and Wildlife Code needs to be repealed either by stand-alone legislation or as an amendment to other legislation.

Americans spoke loudly and clearly on Nov. 5th.

Our legislators took an oath to uphold the Constitution. We will accept nothing less.

By Keith Klingler

PENNSYLVANIA'S VANISHING PRIVATE PROPERTY

With over one third of Pennsylvania's land in either state or federal ownership and tens of thousands of additional acres under government-controlled conservation easements, Pennsylvania's private property is vanishing at an alarming rate. With the P.G.C, D.C.N.R. over 400 non-profits [Land Trusts, Conservancies, and Foundations], and 2 Federal agencies [U.S.F.S, and U.S.F.W.S] all actively buying up Pennsylvania's private land, our rural tax base and economy are suffering. We have counties with over 50% and townships with 80% of their land base in government ownership. With funding from the State and Federal Government the 400 so called nonprofits are receiving 20 to 30 million dollars in state C2P2 grants every 6 months to purchase private land. This brings about a host of major problems. First and foremost, it is impossible for those of us in the private sector to use our own money to compete against these tax-exempt government agencies and nonprofits. We pay income tax on profits from our lands, we pay 2% transfer tax every time we buy and sell land, and we pay full real estate taxes. Think about this, if the P.G.C. was a private resource company they would be paying 100-150 million dollars per year in state and federal taxes on the 300 million dollars that they take in every year from their lands. Who makes up the difference? Every additional acre purchased means less income tax flowing to our state and federal coffers, less transfer tax for our public

schools, townships, and state, and more control of our natural resources [oil, gas minerals. and timber] by the government. We need legislation to force all government agencies, and nonprofits funded by government to get local elected official approval before acquiring additional acreage in their municipality. We need more counties like Forest, Warren, and Venango, that have adopted a "no net loss of private property" policy to do the same. We need hearings on Conservation Easements to expose the scam of taxpayers purchasing worthless development rights. We need to educate our elected officials that when the government owns excessive acreage our ability for economic growth is greatly diminished. A new home brings in as much tax revenue as approximately two thousand acres of government land. These additional tax dollars help municipalities avoid tax increases, but when the government owns the land, new construction is permanently off limits. I drive by empty parking lots of state and federal lands nearly every day, proving there clearly is no need for expansion of government lands in most of this state. Ask yourself, what is the final result of never-ending expanding government land boundaries? If things do not change quickly, owning your own land in Pa. will be a dream that can never come true.

Please go to palandowners.com website, click on video gallery one, and watch the 10-minute video Big Park.