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Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : hints on gaining access

Re: hints on gaining access

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Date: : 2012/3/10 1:26:00

URL:

I've never asked permission to access land for fishing, but I have for hunting. There are some general tips that may seem pretty obvious, but really do work and are probably worth repeating, like:

- Don't show up in your hunting (or fishing) gear and knock on someone's door. Best case, you scare the hell out of them. Worse case, well, use your imagination.
- Do scout before the season and arrive and ask permission dress appropriately, at an appropriate time of day (avoid meal and church times).
- Don't assume you have free run of the land, even with permission
- Do ask where you should park, if there are any areas that are off-limits, what the best route to access certain areas of the property are, etc.
- Make sure you at least get the landowner's name and contact information. Better yet, get a signed note from the landowner giving you permission to be there.
- Find out if there are any other people allowed to use the property, and when they will be there. Ask the landowner what to do if you encounter unauthorized people on his or her property
- Come back and help them maintain their property. There are lots of things to do on farms, but non-farm property can probably also use some help.
- If hunting, share the harvest with the landowner (or at least offer)
- Send them a holiday card, and keep in touch in between seasons. Don't assume that permission this year means permission next year.
- Ask before bring a friend or family member along. When asking for permission to go hunting, I have taken my daughter along with me. Not sure why, but most landowners are more receptive to a "family man" using their property than not.

As for what to say, I've just introduced myself (using my full name), said where I am from, and asked permission to hunt for xxx on their property. I've always been specific, because (at least up in Potter and northern PA Counties), people may not want you hunting deer but are completely ok with you hunting grouse. Regardless of what they say, always thank them for their time. In cases where they have said no, if I felt like it could work, I've said that I would check back with them in the future, just to see if circumstances have changed.

Best of luck in finding some access to land for hunting and fishing. Its actually pretty fun talking to the landowners once you get over the fear of rejection. Most of them are very nice people.