Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum
Topic: : Fishing access: A story of people, property and profits
Re: Fishing access: A story of people, property and profits
Author: : pcray1231
Date: : 2013/3/5 12:30:09
URL:

Yes, but some individual can't take it away. It has to be taken away via an amendment to the constitution, with 2/3 of the states ratifying, etc.

Your cousin in Montana cannot post the water. That's public. He has every right to post the land, which may include the reasonable access to the water.

Don't get me wrong, I'd love to have a few thousand acres of prime land. And if I had it, I'd go in with plans NOT to post it. Like I said, I do understand there are lots of idiots among the public, and eventually that wears on you. I would probably get there myself, and may cave in. Even then, I'd likely freely grant permission, just have to ask.

Regarding my personal judgement of the character of a landowner who posts, it very much depends on his REASON for posting his land. The water, the fish, the wildlife, etc. Those are public, NOT private. Even if you own the land, you don't own exclusive rights to the wildlife found on it. That's not part of what your cousin bought. And if your reason for posting is to have exclusive access to them, or to profit from them, then it's simply wrong.

But if you're posting because your land is being damaged, littered on, or generally overrun by idiots, that's a little different. And it doesn't mean you can't fish or hunt.

It does, however, mean that the public should not subsidize your fishing or hunting by stocking fish or game on your land. And you do not have control over management rights on your land. If the fish and game commissions want to make your land no fishing or no hunting, they have every right to do so. I wouldn't advocate this without reason, and in your large western ranches, there probably isn't a reason. In the case of publicly stocked migratory fish in PA, though, there is a reason.