

Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Deciphering private land/public land

Re: Deciphering private land/public land

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URL:

Yeah, we do have a lot of private land. We have state game lands, and in places, miles and miles of state forests. Also, on some of the best streams, the fish commission has bought it. In other cases, the fish commission has otherwise secured access (on stocked streams, they do stock private land, but not posted land).

Regarding private land, coming here you should know the law. PA is a implied consent state. That means if there are no "posted" or "no trespassing" signs, by law, you are allowed to assume the landowner has no problem with you being there. It is up to him to inform you. That also means putting enough signs up where you see one however you enter his land. That said, while this is the law, courtesy frowns upon it. If it is private, it is best to ask permission. Many of us do indeed knock on doors to ask permission to fish.

There are some regions of the state where people post more often than others. In some areas, if you actually knocked on a door and asked permission, that could be in poor form. "of course it's open, and you didn't have to bother me with stupid questions!".

The eastern side of the state in general is notably bad for people posting their property, though it's getting worse everywhere.

There is a new tool out called HuntingGPS maps. You can get them in Cabelas. They are maps for on your computer or GPS unit, and they accurately tell you what is private land and what is public. When public, they tell you what entity owns it, and on larger tracts it sometimes says the landowner on private land as well.