

Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Deciphering private land/public land

Re: Deciphering private land/public land

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URL:

Unless you can determine that land is public, then you should assume it is private. You should also consider whether the landowner desires or will at least tolerate your presence.

The easiest way is to ask. Why rely upon implications from circumstance if you don't have to do so? Well, clearly, it is more convenient to the trespasser to assume permission rather than obtain it. And, as pcray advances, it may be more convenient to the landowner.

One method of judging the balance between these two attitudes is to examine the circumstances of where you plan to fish. Is it in someone's front or back yard? Is the area in use or more or less wild? Will you be visible from houses or other areas in use on the property? Is there signage of any kind? Is there evidence of public use such as parking pull-offs, etc?

The answer to these questions, and many others will tell you whether seeking permission or assuming it is the better practice. I have had more bad encounters with landowners by assuming permission than I ever did by trying to gain it beforehand. In fact, I have never been refused upon asking and have been thanked for doing so.