

Why You Should Post Your Land

In case it isn't clear from the cover story, the property rights of landowners whose land is crossed or bounded by streams and small rivers in Pennsylvania are under attack. Pennsylvania has allowed itself to be maneuvered (or worse has volunteered) into asserting a claim of ownership to the Little Juniata River, including the streambeds, and by necessary implication, hundreds of other streams which have similar physical or legal characteristics.

This is a different situation than land with wetlands, woodlands where the Indiana Bat nests or property containing historical artifacts. With those, Pennsylvania only dictates that you can't use the land. With streams, Pennsylvania is trying to grab the title as well, presumably because it makes it easier to provide access and use by the public (meaning anyone) if the Commonwealth is the owner and the permission of the riparian owner doesn't have to be obtained.

Under either scenario, property rights are being destroyed and, PLA believes, taken for public use without just compensation to the owner.

Some riparian landowners might say "Why should I care? I always let people on to fish and hunt." or "Gee, I didn't know I owned the streambed." The answer to these questions is that before you know it, your property rights are taken and your land has become part of some public park. It's a little bit like the guy who hears about a recreational trail being created on a long abandoned railroad right-of-way. Who cares. Maybe you don't...until strangers come tramping through your back yard — over the old right-of-way. By then, the trail has taken on a life and momentum of its own and you can't afford to do anything about it.

If you think you can bury your head in the sand and ignore what's going on around you, you're sadly mistaken. All you have to do is read your back issues of the *Landowner* to be reminded it's happening all around you to people just like you. These aren't isolated cases involving enforcement against a few odd balls or nuts. If you hadn't picked up on it already, it is the *modus operandi* of power-hungry, land-grabbing governments. It goes like this.

Isolate and launch an attack on one target, overwhelming the target by concentrating government resources including lots of lawyers, on him. Grind him down and tie him up in costly litigation. When that target crumbles in the onslaught and knuckles under, the other similarly situated people either "keep the old head in the sand" and say it won't happen to me or, sadly, realize its too late to do anything about it.

This is what would have happened to all other landowners along the Little Juniata River if Donny Beaver hadn't drawn the line and resisted the Juggernaut. But the power hungry, land grabbers don't quit.

This is where the PLA Posting Program comes in. You can push back and fight back by simply posting your land. That way you discharge your responsibility and duty as a land owner to take care of your land and as a citizen to protect your property rights. You also take a stand against the kind of regulation and enforcement that is divesting you of your rights, sometimes so gradually as to be virtually imperceptible and sometimes suddenly, like the Commonwealth sneak attack on the Little J riparian owners.

As most PLA members know, PLA's "Posting for Support" Program is one of the best ways to "Take a Stand for Your Land." With your participation in the program and posting your property with PLA signs that clearly state **Private Property - Entry with Permission Only Due To Government Over - Regulation of Land Use** - you are making a statement that elevates the public's awareness of the issues confronting land owners and land users.

The Program also brings land owners and land users together, while making a unified statement against government's intrusion into the use and ownership of land, and informing the public of the consequences of government's failure to respect the citizens' constitutional right to own and use land.

Check the PLA Web site: www.pa.landowners.org for other tools in the struggle to protect property rights.

Now the PLA Posting Program can relieve PLA Members of some of the "administrative" burdens that come with posting land. The new automated system can handle the permission to enter aspect of the Program, communicate the ground rules established for such entry and relieve the posting landowner the need to handle phone calls, paperwork, etc. Check the PLA web page for details.

Above all, get involved and take a stand for your land and help PLA protect property rights.



MEMBER OF
**Pennsylvania Landowners'
Association, Inc.**

"Posting for Support" Program

P.O. Box 391 • Waterford, Pennsylvania 16441 • 1.800.757.5178

PRIVATE PROPERTY

**Entry With Permission Only
Due to Government Over-Regulation of Land Use**

TO REQUEST PERMISSION TO ENTER THIS PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL:

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:

1.866.PLA.POST
(1.866.752.7678)

or visit our web site at:

www.pa.landowners.org

This Property Identification Number must be presented at time of request.
MEMBERSHIP IN PLA IS REQUIRED.