

Petition to the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor to Restore Public Access to Public Land and Water

For over 100 years, state law allowed the public to directly cross railroad tracks in Wisconsin. Now Wisconsin citizens are denied this safe traditional legal access to hundreds of miles of wild public Wisconsin land and water due to an unjustified law change in 2006. DNR identified 134 former RR crossings to the Mississippi River which cannot be used because of the threat of trespass. In addition 121 DNR wildlife areas fishery areas, forests, natural areas and parks have RR crossing which makes access to major portions of those properties are difficult or in some cases impossible to access without trespassing due to the 2006 law change.

For over 100 years it was legal and safe for people to step across railroad right-of-way to access public lands and waters. Almost all fatalities of people on foot are at dedicated crossings not those just stepping directly across the right of way for recreational purposes. A bill to restore the right for the public to legally step across the railroad right of way passed the Assembly late in the 2016 legislative season but was not considered by a senate committee. Anglers, hunters, birders, trappers, photographers, hikers, cross country skiers, resort owners, business leaders, tourism leaders, local government officials, agency staff, sheriffs, judges and district attorneys have expressed their concern about the loss of this long held right to access public lands and waters.

We the undersigned hereby petition our state of Wisconsin Legislators to pass and the Governor to sign legislation that will restore the right of the public to legally step across railroad right of way to gain access to public land and water.

Name

Address

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Please mail completed petition by December 20, 2016 to **Wisconsin Wildlife Federation,
213 North Main Street, Suite 100,
PO Box, 460 Poynette WI 53955**