

250509

DNR Ruling Regarding Stream Access

The current requirement to keep a foot wet in order to be legal does not allow practical access at all to streams!

In any of the streams that have a mud or silt bottom, and have any depth to them, you cannot continue along the stream without sinking below the top of your waders.

Also, when you come to obstacles such as boulders, fallen trees, a fence, or high banks, you may not leave the stream to go around it. All of these situations place the person in a potential trespassing position.

Therefore, this rule needs to be changed and revert back to the old one which used the annual flood stage watermark as the distance from stream side for allowable legal access.

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4-13-2009

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