

Dear [river access owner],

The Lumber Heritage Region has embarked on an initiative to create a water trail along the West Branch Susquehanna River, starting in Cherry Tree, PA and ending at the confluence with the North Branch at Sunbury. The water trail will be oriented primarily to people spending one or more days boating along the river in canoes and kayaks. With the help of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program, we are developing a water trail map and guide. This publication will have information about boat launch and access points, places to stay and rest, how to get around dams on the river, and much more. The water trail map and guide will be published in late fall / winter 2003.

Currently, many sections of the water trail are only accessible using access points on private lands. My understanding is that you have been contacted in the past by [name ] about the possibility of having your access point listed in the map and guide. Before we finalize the water trail map, we want to seek your consent to be included.

Our goal is to establish a model of thoughtful use and volunteer stewardship for the water trail. We want to accomplish this by educating boaters about low-impact ways to use the river, and the need to respect private property. The water trail map and guide will have an information section on “leave no trace”, also known as low-impact use of the river. We are in the process of establishing a volunteer program for regular monitoring and stewardship for the water trail.

Our feeling is that it is up to you, the owner, to establish guidelines for use of a river access. For example, access owners can decide tell us what months they would like to share their site with the public, and what type of usage (day – use only, day use and overnight, no fires), etc. In turn, we anticipate being able to provide help with annual spring and fall cleanups and regular monitoring. All of our arrangements are based on a “handshake” agreement, and the owner is, of course, free to change his/her mind at any point.

If you are still interested in having your access listed in the map and guide, please contact [name] at [phone number] or [email] by [date] so they can set up a time to talk with you about next steps.

Yours truly,

Bob Imhof  
Lumber Heritage Region, Project Coordinator