



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2003 Wisconsin Act 248 [2003 Assembly Bill 530]	Bridges Over Wild Rivers
2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/	Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers a statute that creates the state's wild river system. Portions of the Pike River in Marinette County, and the Pine River and its tributary the Popple River in Florence and Forest Counties are designated by statute as wild rivers. [See s. 30.26, Stats.] The DNR has promulgated administrative rules for the management of activities that may affect the rivers or land near the rivers. [See ch. NR 302.]

The DNR rules include restrictions on bridges over the rivers. In the past, the DNR has not allowed all-terrain vehicles to use any existing bridges crossing these rivers or the construction of new bridges. However, snowmobilers and hikers are currently using the existing wild river bridges.

Wisconsin Act 248 provides that the DNR may not promulgate or maintain administrative rules related to crossing a bridge over a wild river if the crossing is done by a person in an all-terrain vehicle traveling on an all-terrain vehicle trail or a person on a snowmobile traveling on a snowmobile trail, and if the bridges are constructed in any of the following locations:

- Along the Nicolet State Trail where the trail crosses the existing railroad trestle over the Pine River and the Popple River.
- In Florence County along County Highway N where the trail would cross the Pine River.

Act 248 also requires the state (i.e., all state agencies) to permit all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles to travel in a corridor across state land that separates an all-terrain vehicle trail or a snowmobile trail from the designated bridges.

Effective Date: The Act takes effect on April 28, 2004.

Prepared by: Mark C. Patronsky, Senior Staff Attorney

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MCP:rv

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.