

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Road Closures at Mississinewa Lake

Two county roads adjacent to Mississinewa Lake have recently been closed to vehicular traffic. This FAQ provides answers to some common questions related to these closures.

**What roads are closed?** The Old Frances Slocum Trail is closed from just south of Mississinewa's Miami State Recreation Area (SRA) to near the entrance to Red Bridge SRA. County Roads S 700W and W 800S on the north side of Mississinewa Lake near Frances Slocum SRA are closed as well.

**Why are the roads closed?** The Wabash County Highway Department has determined that the cost of maintaining these roads is no longer justified. Ownership in the event that a county decides to close a road typically defaults to the landowner. In this situation, the landowner is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with the State leasing and managing the site through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. DNR does not maintain public roads and bridges for vehicle traffic, so road closures are occurring in these two locations.

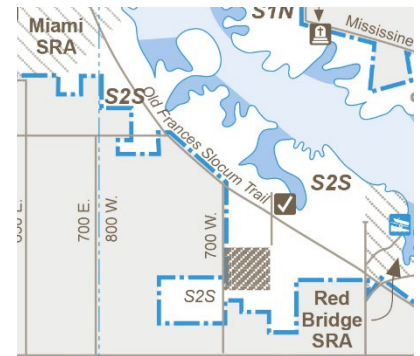
**Was there an opportunity for public comment about these closures?**

Yes. The Wabash County Highway Department advertised and held a public hearing in which there was no opposition to either of these closures.

**How will we get from Miami SRA to Red Bridge SRA and vice versa?** The State is working with the Wabash County Highway Department to clearly mark an alternate route for traffic on county roads that remain open.

**What will happen to these roads now that they are closed?** Both road closures are on property within Mississinewa Lake's boundaries. The roads will be open to the public for hunting and fishing access by foot or on bicycles but will be closed to motor vehicle traffic. The two roads on the north side of the lake (S 700W and W 800S) will continue to provide access to hunting opportunities using mobility devices for those with an accessible hunting permit.

**Why are our fishing and hunting license costs increasing at the same time it seems that access to hunting land is decreasing?** There is no direct connection between the cost of licenses and the closure of these roads. All roads surrounding and intersecting Mississinewa Lake are county roads and are maintained with funds from county highway departments. License fees are established by the Indiana Natural Resources Commission, and these funds are managed by DNR's Division of Fish & Wildlife. Personal license fees had remained the same since 2006 until the recent increases. The costs to maintain healthy habitats, provide public access, and educate



Old Frances Slocum Trail Area of Closure



S 700W and W 800S Closure

the next generation of hunters and anglers continue to increase. You can read more about these increases at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/licenses-and-permits/fee-changes/>. Mississinewa Lake sells fishing and hunting licenses at our offices on behalf of the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, and we receive some funding for our wildlife staffing through the federal grants that license revenue leverages.

**Where is the hunter check-in station going to be that was on Old Slocum? And where can I park to access those areas?** The hunter check-in station will be relocated to the corner of 700W and Old Slocum. The DNR is in the planning process of developing small parking lots at each of the four gates, including at the accessible hunting units.

**I am a disabled hunter who has a permit to access the area for hunting at the old campground site. Will I still have access to that area?** The road closures will more than double the hunting opportunities for those who use mobility devices. A yearly permit can be acquired at the Mississinewa Lake office in Miami SRA at 4673 S. 625 E. Peru, IN 46970 during regular office hours.

**What about the bridge closure near Lafontaine off of S 50E and E 1050S?** This road has been closed by the Wabash County Highway Department for a number of years and will not be reopened for vehicle use. The DNR repaired the section as a limited use trail, not for vehicle use. This allows hunters and anglers access to cross.