

Chapter 02 | Policies & Procedures

02.18 No Hunting Policy

Wisconsin Department of Transportation Roadside Facilities properties are provided for the safety, comfort, convenience, and enjoyment of the traveling public. It is necessary to ensure that all Department operated roadside facilities always provide a safe environment for the traveling public. This includes safety during various hunting seasons. No person may load or discharge a firearm on roadside facility property (other than law enforcement officers). WisDOT policy prohibits hunting on highway right-of-way land unless specifically allowed. This policy is supported by the following Wisconsin Statute:

Wisconsin Statute 167.31(2)(c) Safe Use and Transportation of Firearms and bows

Except as provided in sub. (4) No person may load a firearm, other than a handgun, in a vehicle or discharge a firearm or shoot a bolt or an arrow from a bow or crossbow in or from a vehicle.

- a. Because our turnouts are part of the highway, people shooting within these turnouts are violating
- s. 167.31(2) (d), Stats. They need to get off the Department highway lands before shooting.

Wisconsin Statute 167.31(2)(d) Safe use and transportation of firearms and bows

Except as provided in sub. (4) (a), (bg), (cg), (e), and (g), no person may discharge a firearm or shoot a bolt or an arrow from a bow or crossbow from or across a highway or within 50 feet of the center of a roadway.

- a. 340.01 (54) Words and phrases defined. "Roadway" means that portion of a highway between the regularly established curb lines or that portion which is improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, excluding the berm or shoulder. In a divided highway the term "roadway" refers to each roadway separately but not to all such roadways collectively.
- b. 340.01 (22) Words and phrases defined. "Highway" means all public ways and thoroughfares and bridges on the same. It includes the entire width between the boundary lines of every way open to the use of the public as a matter of right for the purposes of vehicular travel. It includes those roads or driveways in the state, county or municipal parks and in state forests which have been opened to the use of the public for the purpose of vehicular travel and roads or driveways upon the grounds of public schools, as defined in s. 115.01 (1), and institutions under the jurisdiction of the county board of supervisors, but does not include private roads or driveways as defined in sub. (46).