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Railbanking rule changes

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The proposed change to limit negotiations for rail banking to 6-180day periods is clearly an attempted land-grab some interests. Railway lines were given public land for public benefit in development of our nations railway system. As that mode of transportation has been driven out of favor, those lands deserve a fair chance at being turned over to a different transportation use for public benefit. They are ideally suited for pedestrian and bicycling use due to their limited crossings and being generally long, straight, and level. They often pass through pristine wilderness areas that could provide great public enjoyment.

The process of negotiation and securing funding for purchasing these lands does take time and should be given a wide window. This transition in use has happened over a long time and this one step should not be artificially rushed just to the disadvantage of the use with the most public benefit.