

## Know before you shoot!

WDFW's target shooting regulation has recently changed to increase public safety and protect habitat. The rule includes the following elements but also has other requirements. See the rule and a FAQ at: [wdfw.wa.gov/target-shooting-rule](http://wdfw.wa.gov/target-shooting-rule).

- Be sure to know what lies beyond your target and backstop. Many types of recreationists use public lands and may not be easily visible.
- Practice target shooting only in areas with an unobstructed, earthen backstop at least 8 feet high that can safely stop and contain all projectiles, fragments, and ricochets. Place targets within 8 feet and shoot into the lower half of the backstop.
- Do not shoot within 500 feet of a recreation site, residences, or structures or on, across, from, at, along, or down roads or trails.
- Unless otherwise posted, do not engage in target shooting half hour after sunset to half hour before sunrise.
- Only use targets made for target shooting (paper and biodegradable clay targets). Steel targets are allowed from Oct. 1 to May 31. Do not use exploding targets or shoot at trees, glass, appliances, electronics, furniture, vehicles, signs, or built structures.
- Tracer ammunition and steel core bullets are not allowed.
- Do not destroy plants or natural formations.
- Pack out what you pack in (shell casings, targets, and other debris).

### Speak up if you see a problem!

Contact WDFW Enforcement at 1-877-933-9847 to report a violation or safety concern or Report an incident in-progress by calling 9-1-1.

## Target shooting on WDFW lands

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) strives to provide a positive recreational experience for all outdoor enthusiasts at our wildlife areas across the state.

As the number of people recreating on public lands increases each year, it is important for all visitors to have an extra level of awareness. If you target shoot on public lands, follow target shooting best practices to enjoy safe and responsible recreation.

### WDFW Lands

Washington's wildlife areas provide habitat for fish and wildlife as well as land for outdoor recreation. Each year, hundreds of thousands of people visit these areas to hunt, camp, hike, fish, and enjoy other outdoor activities. These activities support local economies and contribute to Washington's wildlife-related recreation industry.

WDFW owns or manages nearly a million acres of land on 33 wildlife areas across the state. In addition to wildlife areas, WDFW also owns or manages hundreds of water access areas sites that provide fishing and boating access to lakes, rivers, and marine areas.

All visitors to WDFW lands need to purchase and display a current Discover Pass or WDFW Vehicle Access Pass. Annual and daily Discover Passes are available online at [fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov](http://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov) or at license vendors across the state. Vehicle Access Passes are free with the purchase of most Washington hunting or fishing licenses.

### Contact

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
1111 Washington Street SE  
Olympia, Washington 98501-1091  
[wdfw.wa.gov](http://wdfw.wa.gov) \ 360-902-2515  
[wildthing@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:wildthing@dfw.wa.gov)

# Target shooting

## on WDFW and other Public Lands



Shooting bench, photo courtesy of NRA



# Where to go target shooting in Washington

## WDFW Wildlife Areas

Most wildlife areas are open to dispersed target shooting, but it is important to find a location that complies with state and local laws. Several wildlife areas across the state have designated shooting ranges or improved sites, including the Methow, Asotin Creek, and Wooten wildlife areas. Contact the WDFW Wildlife Program for more information at 360-902-2515 or [wildthing@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:wildthing@dfw.wa.gov).

[wdfw.wa.gov](http://wdfw.wa.gov)

## Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Lands

The majority of DNR-managed lands are open to target shooting in areas that have an unobstructed backstop that can safely stop all projectiles and debris. Some areas may be designated or posted as no shooting to ensure public safety. Target shooters are encouraged to contact a DNR regional office for more information.

[dnr.wa.gov/go](http://dnr.wa.gov/go)

## U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Lands in Washington

The USFS, under direction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, manages land such as the Gifford Pinchot and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests. Target shooting is allowed on national forest lands unless a specific area has been closed for public safety reasons. There are no designated recreation target shooting areas on USFS lands in Washington.

[fs.usda.gov](http://fs.usda.gov)

## Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lands in Washington

The BLM is a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Interior. Most land managed by BLM allows target shooting as long as you follow federal, state, and local laws. Call your local field office for more information.

[blm.gov/oregon-washington](http://blm.gov/oregon-washington)



Right: Target shooting, National Hunting and Fishing Day.  
Bottom right: Methow wildlife area shooting range.



## Other Shooting Ranges

Target shooters can visit a variety of indoor and outdoor shooting ranges in Washington and help support local businesses. To find a range near you, visit:

[rangeservices.nra.org](http://rangeservices.nra.org)

[wheretoshoot.org](http://wheretoshoot.org)

[shooting.org](http://shooting.org)