

SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION

for persons with disabilities



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife





WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION
 Mail to: WDFW, ADA Manager, PO Box 43139, Olympia, WA 98504
 Fax to: (360) 902-2392

Please Print Clearly

APPLICANT INFORMATION REQUIRED										
LAST NAME				FIRST NAME			MIDDLE		SUFFIX JR / SR	
MAILING ADDRESS					PHYSICAL ADDRESS					
CITY			STATE	ZIP		CITY			STATE	ZIP
SEX M / F	HEIGHT FT. IN.		WEIGHT		DOB		EYE COLOR		HAIR COLOR	
WILD ID				EMAIL			PHONE			
<p>I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the information provided on this form is true and correct. RCW 77.15.650(1)(a) Penalty Providing False Information</p> <p>Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____</p>										

APPLICANTS CERTIFICATION OF DISABILITY

Applicant: You are applying for a Special Use Permit to accommodate your disability in hunting, fishing, or wildlife viewing activities. **State law restricts such permit to persons with permanent inoperable disabilities.** There are no temporary permits. Special Use Permits (SUP) are available to any person who has applied for, receives, and maintains in good standing "Disability Status" with Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW); and who has a permanent inoperable physical or cognitive disability; and the disability must be certified by a licensed physician through this SUP application process.

Application instructions:

1. Applicant must complete and certify all information requested on page one (1).
2. Take application to licensed physician with intimate knowledge of your disability condition and physical impairment.
3. Review this entire packet with your physician.
4. Physician must review page 1 and complete page 2, 3, and 4.
5. Physician statements, signatures, address, phone, medical ID number and title are mandatory on this form.
6. Attach any supporting documentation to this application and mail or fax to the location/number provided above.
7. Allow 4-6 weeks for processing. Incomplete applications will be returned.

Applicant: Please describe in very specific detail your medical condition and why you are requesting a Special Use Permit.

PHYSICIANS MEDICAL CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANTS DISABILITY

Physician: The above applicant is applying for a Special Use Permit for accommodation in hunting, fishing, or wildlife viewing activities. **State law restricts such permit to persons with permanent inoperable disabilities.** There are no temporary permits. Correctable and operable disability impairments resulting from a diagnosed disease, disorder, and injury do not qualify.

WDFW is dedicated to improving opportunities for people with permanent disabilities through reasonable accommodations or equipment modifications. People with permanent inoperable disabilities may have unique needs due to their impairments. Special Use Permits (SUP) allow a specific exception to a recreational activity, service, or regulation. Each Special Use Permit is customized on a case by case basis to the individual's particular needs. WAC 232-12-819

Special Use Permits (SUP) are available to any person who has applied for, receives, and maintains in good standing "Disability Status" with Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW); and who has a permanent inoperable physical or cognitive disability; and the disability must be certified by a licensed physician through this SUP application process.

Application instructions:

1. Licensed MD, ARNP, PA with intimate knowledge of applicant's disability and physical impairment may complete application.
2. Review this entire packet with your patient.
3. Physician must complete and certify all information requested on page 2, 3, and 4.
4. Physician statements, signatures, address, phone, medical NPI number and title are mandatory on this form.
5. Attach any supporting documentation, testing protocol, or SOAP reports to this application.
6. Incomplete, vague, or illegible statements will be returned.

Physician must complete and certify the following information requested.

Physician, the following questions pertain specifically to the applicants permanent inoperable disability which renders them unable to hunt, fish, or view wildlife. **Physician initials required next to applicable answer and is subject to RCW 9A.72.030.**

1. Is the applicant's diagnosed disease, disorder, or injury disability permanent? YES Initial NO Initial

Indicate diagnosed disease, disorder, or injury: _____

2. Is the applicant's impairment from the disability condition permanent? YES Initial NO Initial

Indicate impairment resulting from disability: _____

3. Is the applicant's permanent disability: Cognitive Initial and /or Physical Initial

4. Is the applicant's physical impairment correctable? YES Initial NO Initial

5. Has applicant undergone surgery or other treatment to correct impairment? YES Initial NO Initial

List surgery date(s) applicable to impairment: _____, _____, _____, _____

Indicate surgery or treatment type: _____

6. Is the applicant's permanent physical impairment 12 months post operative? YES Initial NO Initial

7. If NO, do you recommend surgery to make whole the physical impairment? YES Initial NO Initial

8. If surgery is not recommended, **explain in detail why** the physical impairment is considered permanent and not correctable:

Physician must complete and certify the following information requested.

Physician: This section identifies the applicable physical limits of function experienced today. Measurements scored during the evaluation and permanent impairment ratings test will be required below to substantiate the physical impairment. Only complete those that apply to the patients inoperable disability impairment. **Physicians initials are required for each applicable answer.**

9. Date physical limits of function measurements were scored? _____ Initial _____

10. If testing date exceeds two years, do the scores represent todays function limits? YES initial NO initial

11. Push impairment score: _____ Right Left Physical location: _____ Initial _____

12. Pull impairment score: _____ Right Left Physical location: _____ Initial _____

13. Lift impairment score: _____ Right Left Physical location: _____ Initial _____

14. ROM impairment score: _____ Right Left Physical location: _____ Initial _____

15. Grip strength score: _____ Right Left Physical location: _____ Initial _____

16. Muscle strength score: _____ Right Left Physical location: _____ Initial _____

17. Extremity - loss of function: Right Left Location: _____ Initial _____

18. Amputation? Location: _____ Initial _____

19. Spinal Cord Injury? Location: _____ Initial _____

20. If impairment relates to mobility, indicate distance applicant can walk without the use of an assistive device?

0 - 50' _____ 51' - 100' _____ 101' - 200' _____ 200' - 500' _____

21. If impairment relates to mobility, indicate distance applicant can walk with the use of an assistive device?

0 - 50' _____ 51' - 100' _____ 101' - 200' _____ 200' - 500' _____

22. Applicant permanently uses a **medically prescribed** assistive device? YES initial NO initial

Example: walker, arm crutches, leg braces, oxygen, defibrillator? _____

23. Applicant permanently uses a prosthetic? Right Left Location: _____ YES initial NO initial

24. Applicant Permanently uses a Wheelchair? YES initial NO initial

25. Is applicant visually impaired? Acuity Rating: _____ YES initial NO initial

26. Indicate applicants inoperable visual diagnosed disease, disorder, or injury: _____

27. Has applicant been issued a parking placard under RCW 46.19.010(1)? YES initial NO initial

28. Has applicant been placed on Labor and Industries claim (L&I)? YES initial NO initial

29. Has applicant been placed on Disability Retirement (SSI)? YES initial NO initial

Physician must complete and certify the following information requested.

Physician: This section identifies permanent inoperable cognitive intellectual disabilities and impairments. Only complete those that apply to the applicants inoperable cognitive disability. **Physicians initials are required for each applicable answer.**

30. Did the applicants cognitive disability originate at birth? YES initial NO initial

31. Did the applicants cognitive disability originate from birth up to age 17 years? YES initial NO initial

32. Did the applicants cognitive disability originate from age 18 years to present? YES initial NO initial

33. Does applicant need an assistant to partake in hunting and fishing activities? YES initial NO initial

34. Cognitive aptitude (GAF): 0 - 30 _____ 30 - 55 _____ 55 - 75 _____ above 75 _____

35. Does the applicants intellectual function and adaptive behavior provide the skills necessary for safe firearm operation?
 YES _____ NO _____ NEVER _____ OTHER _____

36. Describe in detail any additional cognitive information or intellectual diagnosis helpful for the applicants accommodation.

Physician's Written Statement

Describe in detail how the applicants inoperable impairment permanently renders them unable to participate in a hunting, fishing or wildlife viewing activity in Washington State. Detail the medical history, determinations made, treatments, surgeries and prognosis establishing unequivocal evidence for this certification. Declare type of accommodation, equipment modification, access, or specific exception to a recreational activity, service, or regulation necessary for the applicants particular needs.

Signature _____ Date _____

PHYSICIAN MEDICAL INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE CERTIFICATION

I Print Physician's Name am a licensed MD, ARNP, or PA for the above named person, and by my signature do certify under penalty of perjury according to the laws of the State of Washington RCW 9A.72.030, the above applicant has a permanent inoperable disability as I have indicated and verify the physical condition is serious enough to render them unable to hunt or fish without this permit. I understand physical conditions relating completely to the comfort level of the applicant are not acceptable criteria for the issuance of a Special Use Permit. Therefore, I confirm the information I have provided on this form is correct and true.

Medical Signature _____ Date _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

Medical License Number (NPI) _____ Title _____

Please have your licensed MD, ARNP, or PA sign to certify the permanent disability information.

WDFW use below

APPROVED

NOT APPROVED

Requested accommodation _____

Requirements: _____

Processed by: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Received
Date
Stamp



Fish & Wildlife *News*

Join us online
fws.gov/home/fwn

SPOTLIGHT

**Nature's Good
Neighbors / 10**

Sweet Present,
Rich Past / 12

A New American
Dream / 16





Building Blinds, Building Lives

Disabled veteran crafts accessible hunting blinds.

by BRENT LAWRENCE

Rick Spring smiles even as the cold wind and rain blow across his face in the waterfowl blind at Willapa National Wildlife Refuge in Washington state. The call of cackling geese overhead and the sight of wildlife relax him as he pets Max, his yellow Labrador retriever who doubles as his certified therapy dog.

Being in the outdoors is where Spring finds peace. For many people, however, there are barriers to finding that outdoor enjoyment. A disabled Navy veteran himself, Spring knows that spending time hunting, fishing and hiking isn't always a given for injured veterans or other people with disabilities.

That's why Spring pours his passion for accessibility to the outdoors into building

BRENT LAWRENCE/USFWS

(Top) Veteran Rick Spring pours his passion for accessibility to the outdoors into building hunting and bird-watching blinds on federal and state lands that are compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines. A Spring-made blind, for example, is big enough to accommodate two wheelchairs. (Bottom) A pair of Canada geese spotted through Rick Spring's accessible blind at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.



hunting and bird-watching blinds on federal and state lands that are compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. A Spring-made blind, for example, is big enough to accommodate two wheelchairs.

He does it as a volunteer, donating countless hours to the cause.

“Before they were disabled, veterans were usually very active people,” says Spring, a Boeing retiree who also served as an E4 3rd Class Petty Officer for three years in the U.S. Navy, running ship-to-shore teletypes and crypto aircraft identification. “Then they get injured and they feel like their time in the field isn’t available anymore. Knowing that these blinds are available, it will help veterans move on and have prosperous lives. They want and need this experience.”

Spring is one of conservation’s good neighbors, creating opportunities that open the door to nature for people who otherwise wouldn’t get to see a flock of mallards coming in to land or even hear the wind whistle through the Douglas firs. Whether they hold a shotgun or a camera, those aiming to connect with nature need access to enjoy the outdoors. That’s why Spring hopes to expand the use of his custom-designed blinds to Oregon and then to the national level so more people with disabilities can have access to the outdoors.

It’s impossible to quantify the impact ADA-compliant access has on disabled veterans, says Heath Gunns, outreach manager with Honored American Veterans Afield. The impact on an individual, however, is easy to see when you witness it first-hand.

“You’re a 19-year-old kid and you go to boot camp, where they build you up to think you can do anything. Then you get hurt and the first thing doctors do is tell you the things you’ll no longer be able to do.... That is wrong,” Gunns says.

“Disabled veterans just have to learn to do it differently and that’s where

ADA-compliant blinds and other access opportunities come in. The outdoors can’t give them their legs back, but it can give them hope.”

Spring is determined to keep that hope alive for people with disabilities. He pulls in partners such as the Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Vancouver Wildlife League, Washington Waterfowl Association, Northwest Steelheaders and numerous businesses to make it all happen.

In addition to the blind at Willapa Refuge, two of his custom ADA-compliant blinds can be found at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, and another at Vancouver Lake. Spring is a member of Washington’s Fish and Wildlife Commission ADA Advisory Committee, and he’s finalizing a proposal to build ADA-compliant blinds in each of the commission’s six state regions.

The importance of Spring’s work is underscored by a surprising statistic: 60 percent of requests for Washington’s reduced-fee or special-use permits come from disabled veterans. Overall, there’s a high level of public interest in ADA-compliant facilities, according to Sam Taylor, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s liaison to the seven-member ADA advisory committee.

“This is an amazing volunteer advisory group,” Taylor says. “They’re having a real impact on hunting and fishing opportunities in the state. Rick is doing some great work, and not only with the blinds. He’s also working on a shooting range that is ADA compliant and looking at some other opportunities for fishing piers.”

That access-for-all-people policy plays an important role in public lands recreation. A recent Service report shows the outdoors has a strong allure. In 2016, an estimated 101.6 million Americans—40 percent of the U.S. population 16 years old and older—participated in hunting, fishing, wildlife-watching and related activities. The findings reflect a continued interest in engaging in the outdoors. These

activities are drivers behind an economic powerhouse, where participants spent \$156 billion in 2016.

Spring reached out to Jackie Ferrier, project leader at Willapa Refuge Complex, last year to discuss opportunities for adding a new blind. They had never met before the call, but Ferrier quickly seized the opportunity to improve recreational opportunities for the public.

“We had a discussion about some of his work at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, and we had an instant rapport. I realized we had an amazing opportunity to partner with him on this,” Ferrier says. “He and his team of volunteers were amazing.”

Willapa Refuge plans to add another ADA-compliant blind once some habitat restoration is complete on a different part of the refuge.

“Access is a priority for us, and Rick will make sure it happens. He gets things done,” Ferrier says. Spring, she notes, is a part of the refuge’s hunter working group that provides input on hunting opportunities. “He’s an incredibly dedicated, positive and inspirational person to work with.”

When not helping veterans get into the field, Spring and Max bring that inspiration to the Veterans Affairs hospital in Vancouver, Washington. Two days a week they spend time with veterans and their families at the hospital, often devoting hours to patients in hospice care.

Just like he does in the hunting blind, Max will gently nudge his big yellow head alongside the hand of a veteran.

Spring watches as they slowly rub Max’s head, hoping it brings them the same peace, hope and memories of the outdoors.

BRENT LAWRENCE, External Affairs, Pacific Region

Note: Anyone interested in Rick Spring’s blinds may contact the author at <brent_lawrence@fws.gov>.

