



A 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization
Promoting Stewardship in
Recreational Shooting on Public Land



To: The Wenas Target Shooting Committee

July, 2017

Thank you for this opportunity to address the committee.

We may be miles apart but we share common challenges. I prefer to call them challenges, rather than problems, because problems are not fun to deal with and often can lead to inadequate quick fixes and procrastination to find solutions. By calling it a challenge, I feel more encouraged to step up to the plate and diligently seek a resolution.

(And boy, we are certainly challenged with some big problems!)

The issues we share and face are; trash, noise, public safety, fire prevention, a lack of adherence to rules, personal safety, lack of stewardship and irresponsible behavior in recreational shooting. We are up against multiple challenges that are almost impossible to resolve. Perhaps our greatest challenge is; How to reach those who *just don't care!*

Yet, we have set our minds on a vision of quality recreation for all who visit our public lands and we cling to our desire for, the ever so elusive, positive end results.

And so our quest marches on.

There is no one 'fix-all' solution. It's going to take a combination of several ideas to make a difference. Therefore, develop a 'conceptual end in mind' and design your efforts to achieve that end.

Let's look at some solutions that have potential...

Education and Awareness... Publications help raise awareness of the rules for shooting on public land. They should incorporate a set of recreational ethics to adopt. Distribute those publications throughout the community and try to make the greatest impact possible. Hand out publications to shooters you meet in the field and talk about your efforts. Set up an informational booth at local gun shops and outdoor stores to meet one-on-one with gun owners and discuss the issues. Set up at Gun shows. Do press releases.

Spread the word!



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Cleanups... An opportunity for local community stewardship. Raises awareness of the concerns and spreads the message of responsible shooting on public land. Creates a sense of ownership in the land and fosters a desire to help promote stewardship.

Shooting Lane Development... Creates a desirable (preferred) place to shoot. Helps prevent wild fires. Improves public and personal safety. Fosters stewardship and solidifies ownership. Enhances the recreational experience.

Adopt-A-Shooting Site... Encourages individuals, clubs and organizations to be a part of caring for our public lands. Monitors conditions and maintains a positive presence.

Social Media... A local community based media connection reporting on conditions, concerns and activities affecting the local shooting community.

Suppressors in Shooting... Noise could be greatly reduced with the use of suppressors on firearms. Shooters desire, enjoy and prefer to use them! We should encourage using suppressors while shooting on public land. Other recreation groups will thank us for it!

Volunteer Incentives... Develop an incentive package to encourage volunteer participation in your programs. Personal pride, in doing the right thing, goes a long way, however, people like to be recognized for their efforts. Others see and are encouraged.

There is more to it than this. I have faith you will find your own ways to address these issues and wish you successful results. As I continue my quest for solutions, I will share them with you as well. I believe, together, we can and will make a positive difference.

Thank you for inviting me to your meeting. I hope to make it in person, one day soon!

Bill Cogley
President
Trash No Land

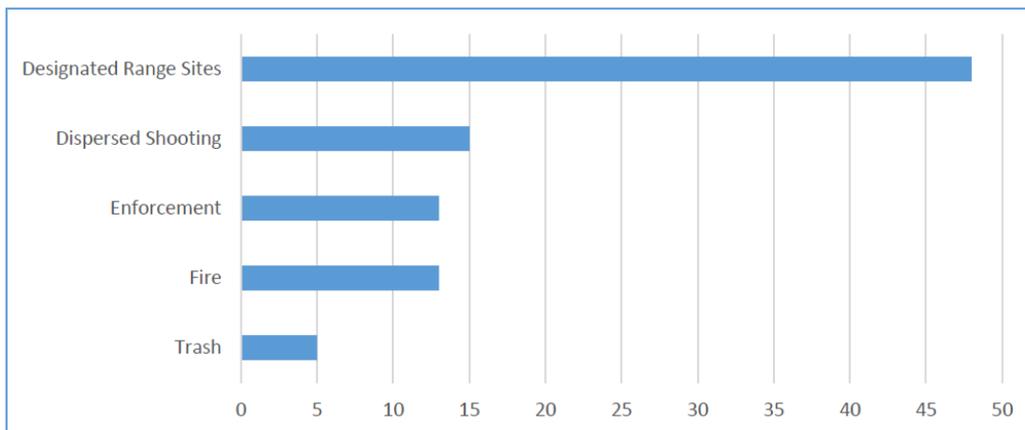
Wenas Wildlife Area Safety Information

Overview

The following information summarizes written comments that WDFW received on dispersed shooting at the Wenas Wildlife Area. Some commenters also address other issues, such as trash and fires. Comments are “as provided” meaning these are individual experiences or opinions as provided to WDFW. The complete spreadsheet of raw data is available [here](#). This information is separate from WDFW enforcement information, which will be provided in another document.

Total Number of Comments: 84

Comments were grouped into five categories by topic: Designated range sites, dispersed shooting, enforcement, fire, and trash. Some comments addressed multiple categories.



- Note 1: Many of these comments were collected at the public meetings on the shooting range proposal (or as part of public information gathering related to the proposal), so many of them address the concept of a range specifically. This proposal is now “off the table.”
- Note 2: Not all comments that addressed the shooting range proposal also mentioned whether dispersed shooting should continue to be allowed at the Wenas.
- Note 3: One of the comments on designated range sites represented more than 30 neighbors.

15 comments described a first-hand experience with shooting at the Wenas; those experiences are included on page 2.

First Hand Experiences as Reported to WDFW

Date	Location	Description
2004	"At the range"	I was shot at near the shooting range while horseback riding by 4 gang members wielding a Mac 10.
2 occasions (2008 and 2010)	Sheep Co Rd area	People pointing guns at each other and then shooting into the air. A man 100 ft to the right started shooting at a propane tank between us
3/8/2015	Buffalo Rd	While hiking we had to yell at the shooters to get them to stop so we could pass on the road.
5/29/2016	Eastbound Road from Buffalo Road	Hiking from the lot at Buffalo Rd. with no other cars visible, hiked E over terrain to another road that runs under the ridge. About 50 yards N on the rd. that runs off of the power line road a ricochet went past us. We started yelling and turned around. The shooter continued shooting until we were about 25 yards out with more ricochets close by. Finally he stopped shooting and than made a comment about how we were in his range. Many in Selah will not walk anywhere but on the roads in the WLA due to target shooting.
7/1/2016	Umtanum Road	People shooting after 10am
4/1/2017	Buffalo Rd	Parked of Buffalo Road, planned to hike Skyline Trail and Yakima Canyon Rim. Parking lot had horse trailers, riders, and horses; they were cancelling a planned ride due to target shooting in the area. Started hiking but soon had to leave the trail because target shooters did not stop shooting despite bright clothing. Left trail and went cross country. Returned in afternoon and different group was shooting and did not stop when I got closer. Called Yakima Co. Sheriff but they confirmed area open to target shooting. I talked to the shooters and they said they had a right to shoot there.
4/29/2017	Roza Rd by the intersection with Durr Rd. Subjects were shooting East with no backstop, across BelTel, Durr and Roza Rds.	Riding back from the mines, approaching Durr Rd, people around the bend were shooting and bullets were ricocheting very near us. They stopped shooting when they saw us. I went to get back on my horse and another shot rang out. We shouted and they apologized and said "this was the girls first time shooting".
Opening day - Deer Season (date not provided)	Wenas Road, a mile or so above Umtanum Falls	Being shot at-or too close to. Had to "eat dirt" once.
Not provided	Buffalo Road	Shooting in direction of horse back riders/hikers.
Not provided	Not provided	People shooting after 11 am. Ignoring posted signs.
Not provided	Not provided	Bullets whizzed past while recreating.
Not provided	Not provided	Bullets whizzed by while horseback riding.
Not provided	Not provided	Shot at while riding a horse.
Not provided	Not provided	I own 2 parcels of property along the N. Wenas Rd. I had 2 steer shot last year.
Not provided	Not provided	Rode with wine country BCHW, went straight from the parking lot and ended up on the ledge above the Y. There were several shooters below, some shooting East and others shooting into the back below us, we had to holler several times to get them to stop so it was safe to come down. We went on the road toward the river and encountered more shooters. At that point we turned around and went home.

Wenas Advisory Committee Meeting 3 – Attachment 3 (of 5)

WTS Advisory Committee – Themes and Ideas from Initial Conversations

This document summarizes initial (“meet and greet”) conversations with WTS Advisory Committee members. Ross Strategic met either in-person or over the phone with 19 of 20 Advisory Committee members during May 2017 (1 Committee member was unavailable). The discussions with Committee members revealed several themes and information needs. Committee members also began sharing their ideas for improvements at the Wildlife Area (see Table 1). The purpose of this document is to describe themes, not to present an exhaustive summary of each individual conversation.

“Draft Principles”

Below are draft areas of emerging convergence (or “draft principles”) for Committee member consideration. Many ideas were discussed during the one-on-one conversations; this is an effort to capture the ideas that Committee members seem closest to agreement on for review and discussion in full Committee. Other or different principles might emerge from ongoing Committee discussions.

- **Use and access:** All current users (including at least: hiking, nature watching, dispersed shooting, hunting/fishing, motorized, horse riding, mountain bike riding, and dog training) should continue to be available at the Wildlife Area. No one wants to close the Wildlife Area to any users.
- **Safety:** Safety is primary. With management, all users should be able to safely carry out their activities at the Wildlife Area.
- **Education, Information, Outreach:** More education, information, and outreach are needed for all users, and more “casual” and first-time users of the Wildlife Area. Education, information, and outreach are needed both for dispersed shooters (especially those who do not go through hunter education) and for other user groups.
- **Enforcement:** More enforcement and better enforcement strategies are needed.
- **North/South:** There are issues unique to the North and South ends of the Wildlife Area, and one size may not fit all in recommendations.

Additional Themes

These are additional themes that came up in many of the one-on-one conversations. This list may be revised and/or added to over time. Other or different themes may emerge from ongoing Committee discussions.

- Most users are responsible, follow the existing rules and regulations, and use safe practices; there is a subset of users which is breaking the rules because of lack of awareness; there is another subset of users which is breaking the rules with full knowledge (they just do not care about rules).
 - The first group (responsible users) has been (and will continue to be) valuable to DFW as a resource.
 - The middle group (users breaking rules due to lack of knowledge) needs to be reached through a combination of enforcement, outreach, and education.
 - The last group will need to be dealt with almost exclusively through enforcement.
- There is enough space at the Wildlife Area to accommodate all users’ needs.
- Almost everyone that uses the Wildlife Area has multiple recreation interests. Users are supportive of one another’s recreation uses.
- A number of groups are interested in being part of solutions at the Wenas through, for example, increased volunteer activities and hours.
- There is a distinct seasonal aspect to use of the Wildlife Area:
 - Horseback riders tend to use the area more in the spring and fall (due to heat and rattlesnakes).
 - Shooting use is particularly high in the two weeks or so prior to hunting season, as hunters sight in their firearms, although there is shooting year round for practice.
 - Litter tends to increase at the North end of the Wildlife Area around the end of the college school year, as students get rid of unwanted furniture, appliances, etc.
- There are concerns (e.g., dissatisfaction, anger, lack of support) with WDFW’s current management and priorities at the Wenas, with WDFW’s mission and how they have executed it, with the process WDFW has

previously used to explore how best to support dispersed shooting at the Wenas, and with WDFW's past proposals on dispersed shooting including both the concept of building a range and potential range locations.

- Many Committee members lack trust in WDFW and are concerned that this Committee's proposals will not be seriously considered, that past proposals will resurface, and/or the Wenas will be closed to shooting or other activities.

Information Needs

Committee members indicated a variety of information needs during the one-on-one conversations. WDFW is compiling and will provide the information they have on these questions. Information also is being sought from Committee members and suggestions for other sources of relevant information are welcome. Also, if information needs are missing on this list please let us know so we can add them.

- **History & Priorities.** What is the history of the Wenas Wildlife Area
 1. How did the land come to be managed by WDFW?
 2. What have management priorities been over the years? What are they now?
 3. How and by whom are management priorities set?
- **Existing Laws and Rules.** What are the current rules that apply to dispersed shooting? Information is needed on general state laws/rules, general WDFW laws/rules/policies, and any rules or policies specific to the Wenas (like the seasonal time of day closures that currently exist).
 1. How are these laws/rules/policies communicated to people?
 2. Who is allowed to dispersed shoot at the Wenas?
 3. Is there any education/competency requirement or other requirement needed? (e.g., hunter's education and hunting license/tags)
 4. Are any areas closed to dispersed shooting now?
- **Use/Use Days.** What is known about how many users use different areas of the Wenas, the usual ways different areas tend to be used (e.g., horses off Buffalo Rd), and the usual days of the week / times of day / seasons of use for different users.
- **Concerns.** What documentation is available on specific concerns (e.g., safety, fire, habitat)?
 1. Where do we have first-hand accounts of concerns?
 2. Where have concerns / complaints been investigated and what are the results of those investigations?
- **Enforcement Resources and Approach.** What is WDFW's current approach to and resources for enforcement at the Wenas? Who makes the decisions about enforcement resources (e.g., decision about how many resources; where and how they are deployed)?
- **Education, Outreach, Info Resources, and Approach.** What are WDFW's current approaches to outreach and providing information on dispersed shooting?
 1. What audiences are being reached, through what mechanisms?
 2. What information is available?
 3. What is the approach to signage?
- **Agency Mission.** What is WDFW's mission - when, and how was it established? How is it used? What force does it have? How is it relevant, if at all, to recommendations about the Wenas?
- **DFW Management and Organization.** How is WDFW organized/funded to manage the wildlife area?
 1. What are the different management roles and funding sources?
 2. What are the roles of Department biologists vs. other Department staff?
 3. Where and how are management decisions made?
 4. Infrastructure (Roads). What is WDFW's current approach to/resources for road maintenance at the Wenas? Who makes the decisions about roads and road maintenance?
 5. Infrastructure (Signage). What is WDFW's current approach to/resources for signs and information? What types of information are a priority to be placed on the Wildlife Area? Who makes the decisions about information sharing and signs?
- **Ideas from Other Places.** How is dispersed shooting supported in other locations, what can be learned from strategies used elsewhere?
- **Inter-agency Relationship.** What is the management relationship at the Wenas between DFW, DNR, and BLM?

Table 1: Initial Committee Members Ideas for Specific Actions – For Discussion

These are ideas that came out of one-on-one interviews for Committee discussion. The Committee will decide which, if any, of these ideas to pursue further. No decisions have yet been made. **Additional ideas for this list are welcome** and are expected to emerge from Committee deliberations.

	Idea	Category			
		Enforcement	Outreach & Education	Management	Other
1	<p>“Low tech” improvements to existing traditional shooting locations to enhance inherent safety features and encourage responsible behavior. Potential improvements mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved signage • Improved road access • Fire safety features (fire breaks) • Concrete benches • Clearer shooting lanes • Improvements to natural berms • Trash cans/dumpsters <p>Areas for improvement would have to be identified, along with specific suggested improvements for each area. Not all current commonly used areas may be appropriate for improvement – there are some concerns about safety at some of the current areas and these would need to be understood and discussed.</p>			X	
2	<p>Clear signage indicating traditional shooting locations, potentially with differentiation for different types of shooting activities. For example: an area (or areas) encouraged for pistols, an area (or areas) encouraged for shotguns, an area (or areas) encouraged for rifles, an area (or areas) encouraged for trap and skeet. This is to encourage concentrated shooting in the managed areas.</p>			X	
3	<p>Discourage certain uses in certain locations at certain times based on use data. For example, discourage concentrated shooting during certain times of year in areas that are heavily used by horse riders at those times. And/or discourage hiking/horse riding or other uses in areas managed to support shooting.</p>		X	X	
4	<p>Develop simple, clear materials for people interested in dispersed shooting at the Wenas. Ideas for materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flyers/handouts that summarize existing shooting rules/regulations, best practices, and areas encouraged / managed for shooting • Maps (see also #8) • Information on fire restrictions (if any) and when they apply <p>Ideas for distribution:</p>		X		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach to local stores that sell guns and ammunition and local firing ranges – ask them to distribute flyers when people purchase a weapon or ammunition • Outreach to CWU • Share at WDFW events, at offices, and on the website • Distribute to local law enforcement and fire departments • Outreach to hunting and shooting organizations so they can share information with their members and at events. Organizations mentioned: NRA, Field & Stream Chapters, Private ranges, 4H, Master Hunters • Outreach to other user groups who use the Wenas so they can share information with their members and at events. For example: Backcountry Horsemen, mountain bikers, Audubon Chapters, hiking groups, Washington Trails 				
5	Increased presence of WDFW staff to offer information.		X	X	
6	Use multiple communications methods to reach different user groups.		X		
7	Clearer/increased signage. Putting US flag images or stickers on signs may deter vandalism.		X	X	
8	Green square map or maps – similar to the green dot map system but showing areas of concentrated shooting use and areas of lower shooting use, along with high/low use areas for recreations such as hiking trails, areas commonly used by horse riders, dog trainers, etc. Could also incorporate info on times of year of high(er) uses.		X	X	
9	Increased enforcement – both formal enforcement when warranted and increased presence/informal contacts to provide information and to discourage bad behavior.	X			
10	Targeted enforcement during high-use periods (e.g., pre-season when people are sighting in their firearms, or in Ellensburg area when CWU school year is ending).	X			
11	Use technology to better understand what is happening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote monitoring of shooting areas, such as motion activated cameras • Remote gunshot detection sensors 	X		X	
12	Support/expand use of volunteers. Ideas for volunteers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information at areas commonly used shooting areas to encourage safe and responsible behavior • Provide information at entrances about where various types of use are most likely and how users can stay out of one another’s way • Trash pickup (already being done but could be expanded) • “Adopt an area” similar to “adopt a highway” for trash pick up 		X	X	
13	Develop a program like Eyes in the Woods to empower all users to report bad behavior (e.g., littering, unsafe practices) without the need for direct confrontation.	X	X		
14	Sign areas to ensure people understand that children and families may be playing/ recreating there. (Akin to the “slow children at play” signs in many neighborhoods.)				
	Other ideas may be added				

Wenas Advisory Committee Meeting 3 – Attachment 4 (of 5)

Wenas Target Shooting Advisory Committee: Summary of Public Listening Sessions

Background

As part of the WTS Advisory Committee process, on June 27th and June 28th WDFW convened two public listening sessions in Ellensburg and Selah. The purpose of the listening sessions was for members of the public to provide direct input to Committee members around goals for shooting at the Wenas Wildlife Area and any concerns. The listening sessions also were used as an opportunity to gather information on the various uses of the Wildlife Area by asking members of the public to fill out brief surveys on when and where they use the Wildlife Area, and for what purpose. This document summarizes key points from both listening sessions.

Listening session participants included members of the public, staff from WDFW, Committee members, and Committee facilitators.

Agendas for each meeting and a Committee roster and meeting dates are appended to this document.

Summary of June 27th Listening Session (Kittitas County Fairgrounds, Ellensburg)

Committee members present: Lee Davis, Bill Essman, Jim Lydigsen, Clay Meyers, Norm Peck

There were seven members of the public in attendance.

Scott McCorquodale, WDFW, provided a summary of the challenges at the Wenas Wildlife Area that WDFW hopes the Committee will address, an overview of the Committee's process, and WDFW's Vision and Goals.

Comments from Members of the Public

- **Dispersed Shooting versus Defined Shooting Range**
 - If you confine shooting to only certain locations at the Wildlife Area you will just move the problem somewhere else; even if you improve certain locations, do not make shooting illegal on the rest of the Wenas.
 - Dispersed shooting is an important tradition and should continue.
 - It can get very crowded in the locations commonly used for shooting; we need places to shoot where we don't have to worry about other people. *(Note: This seemed to be a statement in support of not closing down the rest of the Wenas to dispersed shooting even if certain places were more actively managed for concentrated shooting).*
- **Committee Need and Work**
 - There needs to be some solutions; there have been safety issues over time. These may be associated with individuals and not representative of the larger group; however, the problems are getting worse as use increases.
 - Kittitas County has not seen as many problems as the South end of the Wildlife Area.

- Confident there are the right people on the Committee.
- Have never personally had or seen a safety issue in 35 years of using the wildlife area for multiple things (hunting, shooting, hiking, motorized, at least). This is not a high safety concern.
- Spent a ton of time out on the area, hiked and hunted the whole north end. Use to farm out there.
- Never had a safety issue out there.
- **Trash**
 - Hopefully the Committee could find some way to deal with people who leave trash everywhere. Have heard users saying things like “don’t worry, you don’t have to pick it up, they clean it up once a year.”
 - Have heard lots of concerns about safety and about trash.
 - The Wildlife Area gets trashed but 90% of the people do the right thing and pick up after themselves while 10% make the mess. Have to be careful not to punish the 90% especially since the 10% is unlikely to change behavior as a result of new rules or regulations.
 - Garbage is an issue and a problem, but agree with the 90/10 comment. Need to work on educating the 10% to change their behavior.
- **Enforcement**
 - Enforcement is working hard, but often lack manpower to send someone out to respond or investigate because they are spread too thin already and have other more pressing or dangerous calls to respond to. It would be nice if there were money for more enforcement or patrols.
 - Concerned with tasking law enforcement with additional work if the problem is small, especially when they already lack resources for the work they have now.
 - Do not make new rules that cannot be enforced.

After initial comments, during discussion with WTS Committee Members the following additional points were made:

- The north end of Durr Road used to be a release site for pheasants. It would be nice if it could be used that way again – the new release site at Vantage is not as good.
- Education will be critical. Signs are difficult – maybe some signs that are large enough would help. The current sign on time of use restrictions is too small and hard to find.
- Have witnessed two occasions of kids playing “war games” where they were shooting at targets over the heads of other kids. I told them that was unsafe and asked them to leave and they did.
- Ways to reach into the university for outreach/education might include: Working with university staff who work with students who shoot; working with the university public affairs office; distributing information through the university weapons check service.
- Could have volunteers (Master Hunters?) hand out information at shooting areas. Kittitas County Field and Stream volunteers would love some information to hand out on proper etiquette for shooting. Maybe it could have a target on the back.
- People do not know who does the cleanup at the Wildlife Area. They do not realize that the state does not clean it up, volunteers do. They should have this information.

- Access to out-of-the way (remote, dispersed) locations is really important for teaching young shooters. It is very helpful for both the students and the instructor/parent to be free of distractions.

Summary of June 28th Listening Session (Selah Civic Center)

Committee Members present: John Baranowski, Tim Funkhouser, Jim Lydigsen, Debby McCandless, Steve Miller, Craig O'Brine, Norm Peck, Robert Schaefer, Rachel Voss

There were twenty-six members of the public in attendance.

Scott McCorquodale, WDFW, provided a summary of the challenges at the Wenas Wildlife Area that WDFW hopes the Committee will address, an overview of the Committee's process, and WDFW's Vision and Goals.

Opening Comments from Members of the Public

- **Dispersed Shooting versus Defined Shooting Range**
 - WDFW should not spend any money building a shooting range.
 - Volunteers (such as master hunters) providing staffing for shooting ranges is not feasible.
 - There should be separate managed / improved shooting areas for pistols, rifles, and shotguns.
- **Committee Need and Work**
 - Family has lived on L.T. Murray for 40 years and in recent times the access has become much more limited due to fences and locked gates.
 - There is no strategic plan for the Wildlife Area.
 - There is not enough funding for the Wildlife Area and no money for shooting.
 - There will always be a group of people that disregard rules and regulations.
 - As a community it is important to come together and agree on a solution.
- **Trash**
 - Anything that people can haul into the Wildlife Area should be hauled away.
 - Concern that people will leave large amounts of trash at a shooting range.
- **Enforcement**
 - Enforcement must be available at any type of built range, no matter the location.
 - Half of all WDFW public lands are in Eastern Washington yet most of the enforcement resources are in Western Washington.
 - There is lack of consistent enforcement; if enforcement were sufficient, there would not be significant conflicts among users.
 - Dedicated patrols to make a community safer require taking human resources out of other areas, but it works.
 - There is lack of law enforcement presence.
 - On weekends, Washington State Patrol has been contacted to report illegal shooting. State Patrol said they passed the information along but there was no follow up.
 - The issue with the Sheep Company Road shooting area is that it is not visible from the road so it is impossible to see what people are doing there. Videos or microphone, plus signs indicating that the area is monitored, might help.
- **Fire**

- Academic research indicates large fires approximately every thirty years there are big fires. What action does WDFW take after large fires? (WDFW indicated they do some re-seeding of the affected area).
- Copper, steel, or lead ammunition does not cause fires.
- The existing fire breaks at the Wildlife Area are in disrepair. WDFW should ask for input from fire districts on best practices for maintaining fire breaks.
- Fires cannot be entirely prevented, they are part of a natural cycle.
- Fires are a concern for landowners near or in the Wildlife Area but they are manageable.
- One of the fires reported in 2016 was attributed to shooting when in fact it was caused by an illegal campfire.
- There is a lack of data on causes of fires by shooting activities.
- Signage around fire restrictions is lacking.
- If fire danger during summer is high, why doesn't WDFW shut down the entire Wildlife Area to shooting in summer?
- Yakima County Fire District 2 has experience with mitigation efforts like mowing, fire breaks, and prescribed burns. District 2 is interested in working with the Committee as it develops recommendations.
- **Safety**
 - I don't shoot out there (at Sheep Co.) anymore because there are inexperienced shooters and it is no fun / unsafe.
 - I have shot at the Wildlife Area for years and don't have any safety concerns.
 - In April of this year, this individual parked off Buffalo Road to hike, wearing brightly colored clothing. A group of horseback riders was present and said that there were shooters in the area and they had decided not to go riding. The individual began hiking Skyline Trail and realized that shooters had set up targets facing the trail. At one point this individual heard a projectile close by. Returning via cross-country route, the individual spoke to the shooters who said they did not see the person. The individual contacted county law enforcement and was informed that it was legal for the shooters to be there. Shooters need to be moved to two distinct areas to eliminate the risk for other users of the Wildlife Area.

After initial comments, during discussion with WTS Committee Members the following additional points were made:

- Given the safety concerns voiced by members of the public, it seems like an "Eyes in the Woods" class in the Selah region would be helpful.
 - Eyes in the Woods is a good program but there has to be timely enforcement response component.
 - Eyes in the Woods is not a WDFW program, it is run by an independent non-governmental organization.
- Most shooters are responsible and careful and pick up their trash. Unfair to paint all shooters with the same brush or to blame the larger group for the bad behavior of a few.
- People shoot at targets on the Wildlife Area and they leave their trash, but that is not representative of all shooters.
- Perhaps enforcement responsibilities could be run from the Yakima County Sheriff's Office.
- Stiffer penalties are needed to motivate people to change their behavior. One suggestion: If someone is caught doing something illegal on the Wildlife Area, they should be banned from the Wildlife Area for a certain amount of time. If someone is infringing on rights of others, they should lose their rights at least for a time.

- If the public wants to have more enforcement resources, that is a question for local legislators. All three legislative district representatives and senators are following the work of the Committee; members of the public should contact their political representatives to talk about it.

DRAFT

PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION

SHOOTING ON THE WENAS WILDLIFE AREA

Tuesday, June 27, 2017, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Manastash Room

Ellensburg Fairgrounds - Near 901 E. 7th Ave

Agenda

- 6:00 pm** **Get Settled, Introductions (10 minutes)**
- 6:10 pm** **Description of Purpose of Listening Session (15 minutes)**
- *History of discussions of shooting at the Wenas*
 - *Current status of WDFW efforts*
 - *Wenas Target Shooting Advisory Committee*
- 6:25 pm** **Public Input (90 minutes, or longer as needed)**
- Let us know what you want the Advisory Committee to consider. You might address questions like:*
- *What is working well at the Wenas these days?*
 - *What concerns (if any) do you have?*
 - *What would you like to see stay the same going forward?*
 - *What changes (if any) are you interested in?*
- 7:55 pm** **Wrap up of Discussion Period (10 minutes)**
- *Opportunities for additional public comment through listening sessions, online form, paper form, and Advisory Committee meetings.*
 - *How do you use the Wenas information exercise (next session).*
- 8:05 pm** **Information Exercise on Use of the Wenas (40 minutes, or shorter as needed)**

DFW staff and Ross Strategic will have tables around the room with maps and notepads, and will gather information from the public on:

- *What do you like to do at Wenas Wildlife Area?*
- *Where do you like to go?*
- *What times of year and days of the week do you usually go there?*

The purpose of this exercise is to provide more insight to DFW and the WTS Advisory Committee on the places that people care about, what they like to do, and how often they visit the Wenas Wildlife Area.

8:45 pm **Wrap up**

9:00 pm **Adjourn**

Agenda times are approximate

DRAFT

PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION

SHOOTING ON THE WENAS WILDLIFE AREA

Wednesday, June 28, 2017, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Selah Civic Center

216 S 1st St. Selah, WA 98942

Agenda

- 6:00 pm Get Settled, Introductions (10 minutes)**
- 6:10 pm Description of Purpose of Listening Session (15 minutes)**
- *History of discussions of shooting at the Wenas*
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 - *Wenas Target Shooting Advisory Committee*
- 6:25 pm Public Input (90 minutes, or longer as needed)**
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- *What is working well at the Wenas these days?*
 - *What concerns (if any) do you have?*
 - *What would you like to see stay the same going forward?*
 - *What changes (if any) are you interested in?*
- 7:55 pm Wrap up of Discussion Period (10 minutes)**
- *Opportunities for additional public comment through listening sessions, online form, paper form, and Advisory Committee meetings.*
 - *How do you use the Wenas information exercise (next session).*
- 8:05 pm Information Exercise on Use of the Wenas (40 minutes, or shorter as needed)**

DFW staff and Ross Strategic will have tables around the room with maps and notepads, and will gather information from the public on:

- *What do you like to do at Wenas Wildlife Area?*
- *Where do you like to go?*
- *What times of year and days of the week do you usually go there?*

The purpose of this exercise is to provide more insight to DFW and the WTS Advisory Committee on the places that people care about, what they like to do, and how often they visit the Wenas Wildlife Area.

8:45 pm **Wrap up**

9:00 pm **Adjourn**

Agenda times are approximate

DRAFT

Appendix C: Wenas Advisory Committee Roster & Meeting Dates

Committee Roster

Name	Interest(s)
John Baranowski	Hiking
Lee Davis	Hunting, Shooting, Hiking, Wildlife Photography
Bill Essman	Representative - Kittitas County Commissioner's Public Land Advisory Committee, Hunting
Tim Funkhouser	Shooting, ATV, Dirt Bike Riding, Hunting
Bret Hollar	Hunting
Keely Hopkins	NRA Representative
Walt Hyde	Backcountry Horse Riding, Target Shooting, Hunting, Motorized Use
Brian Lund	Mountain Biking
Jim Lydigsen	Standing in Defense of Practiced Use of Firearms in Dispersed Locations
Debby McCandless	Neighbor, Shooting, Nature Photography, Hiking
Steve Miller	Backcountry Horse Riding
Clay Myers	Neighbor
Craig O'Brine	Hunting, Shooting, Hiking, Dog Training
Norm Peck	Nature Watching, Shooting
Nick Perry	Neighbor, Hunting
Mark Pidgeon	Hunting, Hunters Heritage Council
Scott Robertson	Dog Training, Hunting
Robert Schafer	Motorized Use, Shooting, Wildlife Watching
Tanya Stanley	Neighbor, Safety
Rachel Voss	Hunting, Habitat Conservation for Wildlife

Meeting Dates/Locations

- Thursday, June 22 (Ellensburg)
- Tuesday, July 25 (Selah/Yakima)
- Tuesday, August 15 (Ellensburg)
- Thursday, September 14 (Selah/Yakima)

- Thursday, October 19 (Ellensburg)
- Tuesday, November 14 (Selah/Yakima)
- Wednesday, December 13 (Ellensburg)

Wenas Advisory Committee Meeting 3 – Attachment 5 (of 5)

Wenas Target Shooting Advisory Committee

Public Comments Received via Web Form as of 7/18/17

Date	Category	Comment
05/16/2017	General	For the roster of members, could you please post the member affiliation and/or interest that they are representing (i.e.- NRA/target shooting, Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation, resident, hunter, horse back rider, mt biker, horse back rider, Sierra Club, etc.)
05/20/2017	safety	Two issues: (1) On 5-18-17 early evening I heard shots towards my house. I live near Black Canyon Road and my property borders state land but not by the elk fence. You can't see my house from Wenas Rd or BC road. The target shooters were behind a big natural berm which was good, but there is no way for them to know that my 2 horses in their corral and I were right over the top. Had they shot too high it could have been bad. (2) I never know where people are going to be shooting in the Black Canyon area or in the LT Murray. If I did, then I could avoid those areas when riding.
06/13/2017	Shooting	It seems borderline absurd to limit shooting to one or two areas. With the growth of the shooting sports this would put many shooters in the same area. Needless to say safety is going to be a real concern for everyone. One would think that four areas would be a minimum. It also seems like two areas will be an enforcement nightmare. My 2 cents. Thanks to all serving on this committee. Dennis Chapman
06/13/2017	General	I believe that recreational shooting should always be allowed in public lands. I also believe that the WTS and public should draft and pass a joint rules and guidelines for the Management, Safety, and any funding needs.
06/14/2017	recreational shooting	Please continue to keep the Wenas Wildlife area open to recreational shooting. It is a family tradition for us and a time honored right the citizens of this nation enjoy.
06/14/2017	Shooting	As a person born and raised in Washington, with multi-generational family roots including the Yakima / Kittitas areas, I implore you to not use your committee to undertake bans or draconian anti shooting measures of a political nature. Of course, firearms safety must be exercised not matter where shooting or hunting occurs, and shooters must observe them. If the issue is debris, arrange for trash collection receptacles or periodic dumpster delivery for cleanups. In my experience, shooters clean up when they can, and sometimes have cleanup parties. If the issue is fire suppression, make sure your shooting backstop areas are clear of sagebrush and tumbleweeds. Banning steel plates and tracer ammunition may be in order if this won't work.

		Banning "tannerite" exploding targets is also something to consider. However, I do not support eliminating shooting areas in a politically motivated manner whatsoever. For those that don't like shooting, they don't have to! But they should also stay away from those that do.
06/14/2017	Hunting	Please keep the Wenas Wildlife area open to hunting.
06/14/2017	Shooting	Dear Sir: I would like all of the Wenas area to remain open to public shooting, as it currently is.
06/14/2017	shooting	Am against "target" shooting in the Wenas or any other hunting area. There should be designated target shooting areas outside the hunting grounds.
06/15/2017	General	If people want more public lands open for shooting, make them pay money for the privilege.its not free.
06/18/2017	General	People are going to shoot in the woods. Providing safe areas with good backstops and reduced risk of fire will make the woods and general public safer. Please do not listen to the antigun crowd that will pack meetings with their imported agenda. I've seen it happen often enough to know it's a thing.
06/19/2017	The topic of my inquiry has to do with the relationship of the "Citizens Advisory Group" or similar clones that have been developed to make decisions regarding public lands management.	Although the Citizens Advisory Groups were originally intended to advise, they seem to have expanded their influence to issues like the site for the original shooting range next to buildings and the building of the Wenas Chapter parking corral. Both of these projects did not have to pass a public hearing and although the corral was probably needed, not sure how it escaped the scrutiny of the public hearings. My question to the committee is, after you have made some decisions, will be Citizens Advisory Groups be able to overrule your work and conclusions over the next few months?
07/03/2017	General	The Wenas is a very desirable destination for bird watching. Parts of it are designated as an IBA (Important Bird and Biodiversity Area) by BirdLife International. The Audubon chapters of Washington have met for a Memorial Day campout in the Wenas campground for well over half a century, due to the great birding. Birdwatchers utilize the Wenas WA heavily from late-April throughout the summer and early fall. While I used the term "birdwatcher" above, we actually call ourselves "birders", as watching is only a small part of our activity. The most important sense is the sense of hearing, for birds regularly sing and call, and they can often best be identified by voice alone. We find the birds by sound. So a quiet environment is essential for birders. This is doubly true because most birds will pause their singing if they sense a threat. Loud noises such as gunfire definitely decrease bird songs and calls. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to limit target shooting to a small number of sites within the Wenas WA. The sound of gunfire travel very far, disrupting bird life in large areas. Minimizing the number of areas subjected to loud gunfire is the only way to mitigate this effect.