

**WTS Advisory Committee Meeting 4 – Attachment 1 (of 5)**

9/22/2017

Wenas  
Wildlife  
Area Target  
Shooting  
Advisory  
Committee



*FOURTH MEETING  
TUESDAY AUGUST 15, 2017*



Agenda Review

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6:00 pm	Get settled, introductions (5 min)
6:05 pm	Information Gathering (10 min)
6:15 pm	Subgroup Reports and Discussion (1 hour 45 min)
8:00 pm	Public Comment (10 min scheduled, may need to adjust)
8:10 pm	Wrap up and Schedule for Fall Meetings (20 min)
8:30 pm	Adjourn

## Options for Public Comment

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- At Committee meetings
  - *Please stick to 2 minutes or less, because*
  - *Time may be limited by Committee work*
- Through web form
- Through paper form
- At dedicated listening sessions
  - In approximately October, to be scheduled

## Information Gathering

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- Use Survey Update
  - Distributed to Committee Members
  - Distributed via WDFW press release and email list
  - Open until Friday, September 15

## Draft Approach: North Managed Sites

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- Designated sites to include:
  - Backstop & range separation berms
  - Benches/tables
  - Marked parking areas
  - Signage at encouraged sites & main roads
- Unsafe areas for shooting
- Shooting safety changes
- Other specific recommendations

## Draft Recommendations: North Managed Sites

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- Active management at:
  - North Durr Road (15 – 50 yards; short to mid range & shotgun/trap)
  - East Umptanum (100 – 400 yards; mid to long range)
- Unsafe areas for shooting
  - Trailheads
  - Within ½ mile of trails, towards trails or roads
  - Parallel or over green-dot roads/trails/campgrounds/riparian zones
  - Currently statutory or regulatory prohibited areas



## Draft Recommendations: North Managed Sites

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North Durr Road  
shooting area



## Draft Recommendations: North Managed Sites (continued)

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- Shooting Safety Changes
  - Align WDFW & WDNR regulations regarding shooting areas
  - Clear & uniform application of criteria for no-shooting areas (if such areas established)
- Dispersed shooting that is in compliance with safety regulations and guidelines will not be prohibited or discouraged in areas where it is safe to do so.
- Develop appropriate signage for encouraged shooting
- Identify dispersed shooting locations on Wenas webpage
- Develop firebreaks & maintain vegetation around sites
- Specify firearm & ammunition type restrictions around fire season
- Continue annual cleanups

## Draft Approach: South Managed Sites

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- Continue to support & manage dispersed shooting
- Improve user experiences for all groups
- Phase-in of actions
- Start with education & outreach emphasis + minimal improvements at sites
- Estimated 2 year implementation with active monitoring & adaptive management
- Reexamine status after 2 years, determine what additional changes are needed if any

## Draft Recommendations: South Managed Sites

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- Active management of Buffalo Road, Sheep Company Road, & Cottonwood
- Increase observation & enforcement at managed shooting areas
- Develop informational materials; post materials online & at all entrances & trailheads
- Develop & post signage at managed shooting areas
- Make minimal improvements to managed shooting locations
- Design & implement public safety awareness program

Draft Recommendations: South  
Managed Sites

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Draft Recommendations: South  
Managed Sites

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## Draft Recommendations: South Managed Sites

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## Draft Approach: Education & Outreach

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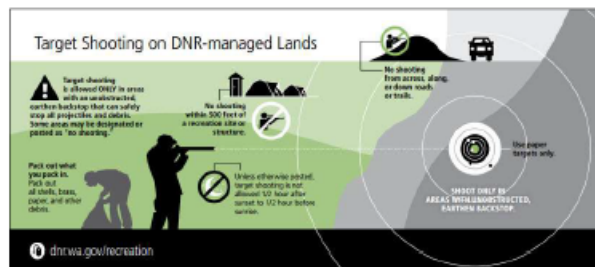
- Most people are interested in doing the right thing but more information is needed for people to do so
- Several types of information:
  - When
  - What
  - Where



## Draft Recommendations: Education & Outreach

- Develop simple, clear educational materials for wildlife area users
- Increase staff presence at Wildlife Area
- Support Region 3 outreach liaison position
- Use multiple communications methods
- Develop & post signage at the Wildlife Area
- Develop map of Wildlife Area uses
- Support *Eyes in the Woods* program at the Wenas
- Support & expand use of volunteers

## Example Materials: Education & Outreach






## Example Materials: Education & Outreach

**Know before you go**  
 Know what is safe to do on public lands. Know the rules and regulations in the area you are visiting. Know the potential of your firearm. Know the weather and terrain conditions. Know the location of your vehicle. Know the location of your vehicle. Know the location of your vehicle.


**Want more information?**  
 Visit our website for more information. Facebook: @BureauofLandManagement. Twitter: @BLM. YouTube: BLM. Instagram: BLM. Flickr: BLM. SoundCloud: BLM. Spotify: BLM. SoundCloud: BLM. Spotify: BLM.

**Recreational Sport Shooting**  
 Be a good steward of the land. Share the space, leave no trace.

**Your safety, your responsibility**  
 Follow these guidelines to ensure your safety and the safety of others. 1. Know your gun and its capabilities. 2. Always use proper firearm safety. 3. Always use proper firearm safety. 4. Always use proper firearm safety. 5. Always use proper firearm safety. 6. Always use proper firearm safety. 7. Always use proper firearm safety. 8. Always use proper firearm safety. 9. Always use proper firearm safety. 10. Always use proper firearm safety.



**Public lands**  
 Public lands are managed by the Bureau of Land Management. They are open to the public for recreation and other uses. They are managed for the benefit of the present and future generations.



## Example Materials: Education & Outreach



### Draft Approach: Enforcement

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- Focus on optimizing existing enforcement resources
- Limited recommendations around new resources
- Direct connection between enforcement & outreach/education

### Draft Recommendations: Enforcement

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- Enhance coordination with local law enforcement, other WDFW programs, & volunteer groups
- Support *Eyes in the Woods* for the Wenas
- Align WDNR & WDFW regulations
- Support outreach liaison for Region 3
- Add at least one enforcement officer for Region 3
- Develop a mobile application for reporting illegal behavior

## Areas of Overlap in the Drafts

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- Idea of identifying and managing sites for different types of shooting
- Types of "minimal" improvements
- Backbone (plan, position, etc.) to organize education and outreach activities
- Maps and signs
- Emphasis patrols/ targeted enforcement
- Additional enforcement resources
- Conforming WDFW and DNR regulations on shooting on public lands
- Ongoing and expanded roles for volunteers

## Next Steps for Draft Recommendations

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- **Managed Sites**
  - North and south small groups meet together to iron out specifics on improvements at each site
- **Education and Outreach & Enforcement (separately or together)**
  - Update draft to incorporate comments/ ideas from tonight's meeting; identify any remaining discussion topics

## Fall Meeting Dates and Locations

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- Thursday, September 14 – Selah
- Thursday, October 19 – Ellensburg
- Tuesday, November 14 – Selah
- Wednesday, December 13 - Ellensburg

**WTS Advisory Committee Meeting 4 – Attachment 2 (of 5)**

## WTS Advisory Committee: Small Group on Enforcement Draft

### Approach

- Recommendations are focused on optimizing existing enforcement resources, with the understanding that additional resources may be difficult to obtain.
- Limited new resources are recommended; the Committee would be support of WDFW budget requests to establish these new resources; it is understood that the Legislature makes decisions about WDFW's budget.
- Enforcement work goes hand in hand with education and outreach work; information sharing and increasing public knowledge of rules, regulations, and expectations is the cornerstone of any behavior change.

### Draft Recommendations

***1. WDFW should, immediately, enhance coordination with local law enforcement, non-enforcement WDFW programs, and volunteer groups (as appropriate) to focus their available patrols and on-site presence for the Wenas at sites of concentrated shooting during anticipated high-use periods. The emphasis of this increased presence should be education on rules, regulations, and expected behavior; however, citations should be issued when warranted.***

- Emphasis of this recommendation is on the enhanced coordination for emphasis patrols during anticipated high-use periods. (Not trying to say coordination doesn't happen already; trying to focus the coordination on emphasis patrols.)

***2. WDFW should, within 6 months, offer an Eyes in the Woods course and support for the Wenas Wildlife Area, preferably in early spring 2018.***

***3. WDFW should, within 6 months, revise its regulations on shooting on public lands (WAC 220-500-140 and WAC 220-500-220) to match DNR's regulations on shooting on public lands (WAC 332-52-145) so the regulations are consistent for the general public and across the Wenas Wildlife Area state lands.***

- Will make it easier to explain requirements and how they apply on the Wenas if the regs are the same across all the state lands.
- The WDFW and DNR regs already are consistent, but the DNR regs are worded differently and are more specific, making enforcement more straightforward.

***4. WDFW should, within 6 months, work with the WTS Advisory Committee to create and fill the position of Outreach Liaison for Region 3. At a minimum, the Outreach Liaison will be tasked with developing and coordinating distribution of education and outreach material to increase knowledge of expected behavior and what to anticipate among all Wenas Wildlife Area user groups. [Note: some Subgroup members think this position should be volunteer, others believe it should be WDFW staff.]***

- Expectation would be that the Liaison would work with groups one-on-one to help with education / outreach and that he or she would spend significant time in the field on the Wildlife Area talking with people.
- Liaison would be initially focused on the Wenas Wildlife Area and groups that use it; but would also be able to provide liaison services in other parts of Region 3.

***5. WDFW should, within 6 months, create and fill at least one additional enforcement officer position for Region 3.***

***6. WDFW should, within 1 year, develop a mobile application to make it simpler for people to document and report illegal behavior on the Wenas Wildlife Area.***

- Mobile apps have been developed for things like reporting invasive plants/ weeds.
- The existing WDFW text-tip line is difficult to use; a mobile app would be more likely to be used.



**WTS Advisory Committee Meeting 4 – Attachment 3 (of 5)**

## WTS Advisory Committee: Managed Sites (North) Draft

### Approach

At each designated 'shooting encouraged' area, backstop berms and range separation berms should be constructed by WDFW contractors and/or volunteers for ranges at which solid projectiles will be used for target shooting (i.e., pistol, muzzle-loader, cartridge rifle and shotgun slug). Backstop berms should be at least 10 (ten) feet in height. Separation or 'external' berms should separate ranges of different target distances, and should be at least 8 (eight) feet in height.

Backstop berms and lateral/separation/exterior berms should be constructed to limit or eliminate drainage from an area from about 12 (twelve) feet towards the firing line from the base of the backstop berm slope to limit or eliminate lead movement (of lead adsorbed to soil fine particles, the primary lead mobility mechanism).

The berm face towards the firing line should be maintained clear of vegetation to reduce fire potential.

Range distances from firing line to backstop should be:

- Up to 25 (twenty-five) yards, primarily intended for pistol use or shotgun patterning
- Up to 50 (fifty) yards, primarily for muzzle-loading rifles and rimfire rifles, or preliminary sight-in for other center-fire rifles.
- Up to 200 (two hundred) yards, primarily for center-fire rifles.

These ranges should be located close together, and be separated by 'exterior' (to each separate distance range) berms.

Each shooting range/area should have a marked parking area that is off the adjacent road, and separated from both the road and firing line by rocks, posts or some other form of barrier easily passable by people and/or wheelchairs, but impassible to vehicles during normal range use. Parking areas should be reasonably level (i.e. 2% grade or less), gravel or rock-covered and maintained as clear of vegetation as possible to minimize the potential for fires started by vehicle exhaust system components (e.g. catalytic converters).

Range signage should be placed by WDFW and/or WDNR (land owner or leasee) at 'encouraged target shooting areas' should identify parking areas, firing lines and basic safe-use and courtesy rules/conventions (e.g., place targets at the base of the backstop berm, cease firing, clear all firearms and do not handle to allow shooters to go downrange to place, change or retrieve targets, etc.). Signage should also be placed by WDFW starting at main roads (e.g. Umptanum Rd, Wenas Game Area boundaries) directing potential users to 'encouraged target shooting areas', showing green dot roads, vicinity of trails and other locations where shooting is discouraged for the safety of hikers, other users, and road users, etc.

All ranges should have at least some concrete or Ecology Block 'benches/tables' at the firing line, and the firing line should be clearly marked (e.g. marking paint, + by signage).

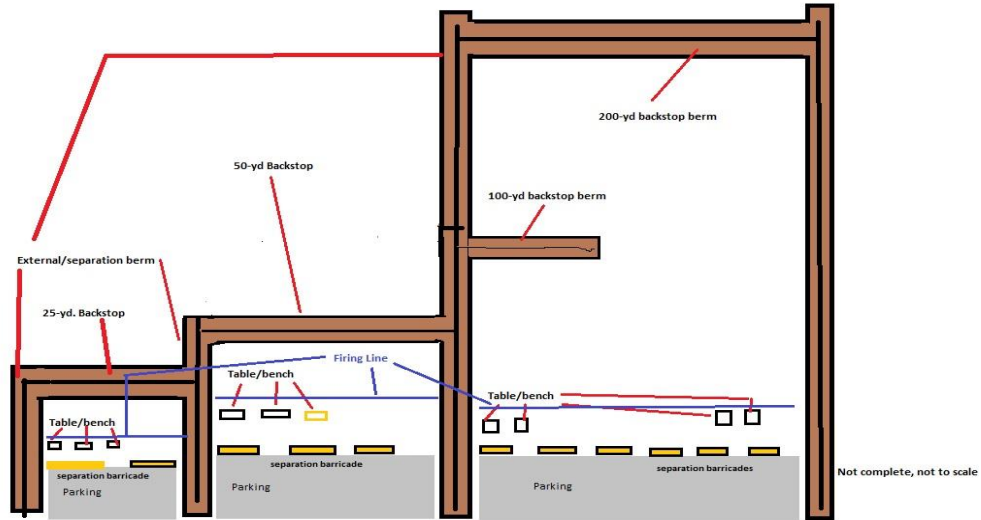


Fig. 1 Generalized range construction concept for multi-use pistol/rifle/muzzle loader range

This conceptual approach to range construction is not complete, nor to scale, and is only presented to convey some best range management concepts such as backstops, berm layout, etc.

#### Proposed Encouraged Target Shooting Areas:

1.) Short- to mid-range (15-50 yds.) and shotgun/trap: N Durr Road shooting areas. Rationale: Most shooting observed at this traditional shooting area is generally short- to mid-range (pistol, shotgun, some rifle) at 15-50 yards or less, or shooting clay 'pigeons' from a hand trap or portable trap device. Thus most shooters' needs can be met with a 'trap' range area and short-range and mid-range backstop berms (25- and 50-yd. as depicted in the above diagram). Specific recommendations:

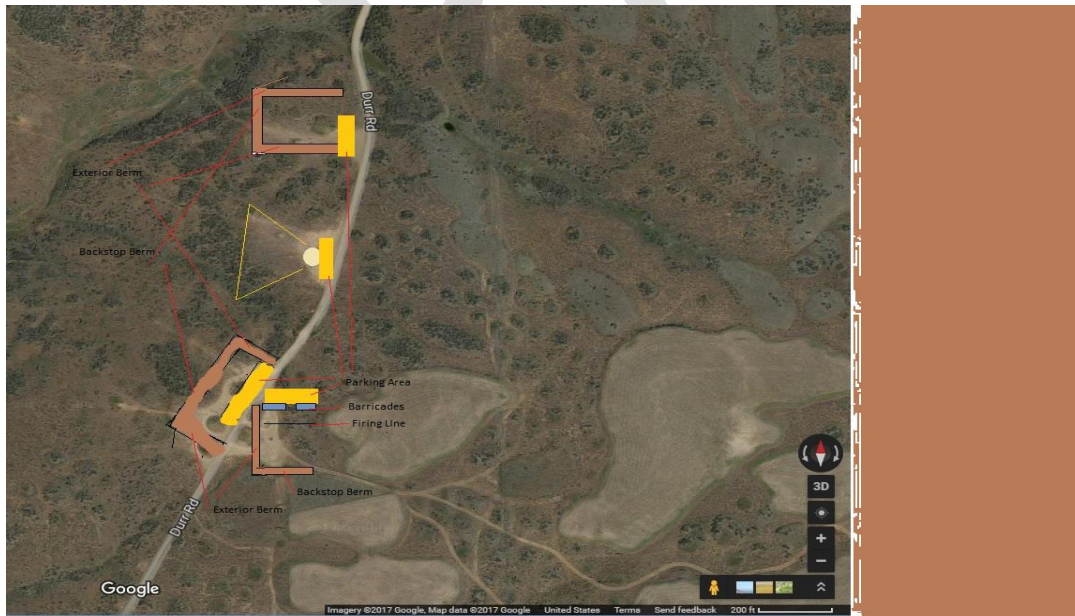


Fig. 2 Recommended Shooting Area 1 North (North Durr Road) with recommended improvements shown in concept. Not complete, not to scale. [46.893803, -120.565941](https://www.google.com/maps/@46.893803,-120.565941)

2.) Mid- long-range (100,200, 300 & 400 yds., 400 yd. backstop not shown): E. Umptanum

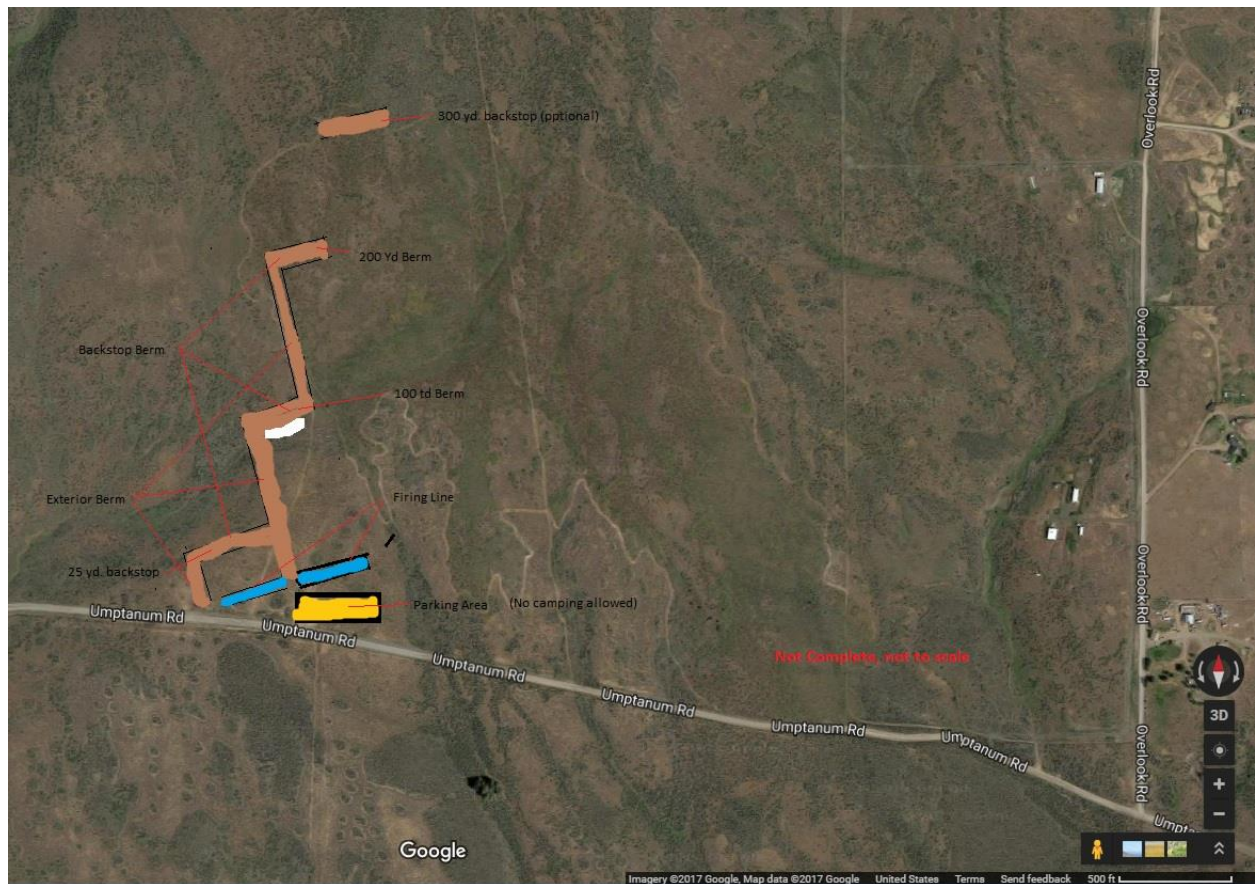


Fig. 3 Recommended Target Shooting Area 2North, Umptanum East Rifle and Pistol Range, with recommended improvements shown in concept. Not complete, not to scale. [46.914250, -120.633596](https://www.google.com/maps/place/46.914250,-120.633596)

Backstop and external berms should be generally constructed with local materials, but backstop berms should be faced with 1.5-2 ft. of fine sand, sandy loam or silty, sandy loam to minimize potential fire hazards during dry seasons.

Recommended no-shooting areas:

- 1.) All trailheads (e.g. Umptanum Falls Trail Parking area, Cove Road/Manastash Ridge trails, Skyline Trail, et. al.) **Note: although the Skyline Trail is in the South area, some Ellensburg bird watchers noted concerns because they frequently use that trail.**
- 2.) All areas within ½ mile of any frequently used trails, towards trails or roads where shooting is toward the trail or a road.
- 3.) Parallel to or over any public green-dot roads, trails, campgrounds or riparian zones (i.e., all shooting should be perpendicular to existing roads, and one mile or more from any road, trail, residence, identified active grazing lease {livestock} or private livestock grazing, campground or heavy public use area AND with a backstop at least 3-5 ft. in height).
- 4.) Obvious current statutory or regulatory prohibited areas, e.g. from or over a public road ROW, etc.



## Recommended Shooting Safety Changes

- 1.) WDFW regulations and WDNR regulations (WACs) regarding shooting areas should be re-written by WDFW and/or WDNR so that regulations regarding shooting on public lands owned or managed by both agencies are the same. Rationale: This change will make it easier for the public to know and understand relevant and appropriate regulations regarding target shooting on public lands, and it will be easier for enforcement personnel and/or prosecutors to carry out effective enforcement actions on or regarding these public lands.
- 2.) Some areas where shooting has occurred in the past are not safe areas for shooting, e.g. Durr Switchback (high potential to impact in camping or picnic areas), and some areas in the Umptanum Creek riparian zone near Durr Road. If no-shooting areas are established in the Wenas Game Area, criteria should be clear and uniformly applied after consultation and collaboration with user groups to establish the criteria with supporting examples and rationales. We recommend that shooting from the switchback and in the bottom (except hunting during seasons) be prohibited.

## Other Recommendations

- 1.) Dispersed shooting that is in compliance with safety regulations and guidelines will not be prohibited or discouraged in areas where it is safe to do so on the Wenas Game Area. Areas where safe shooting is difficult or problematic may be identified by signage and policy by WDFW and/or WDNR and designated 'shooting discouraged' or 'shooting prohibited', the latter in limited instances such as trailhead parking or camping areas and other areas where a clear public user danger would exist if shooting were to occur. Nothing in these recommendations should be construed to limit shooting at game animals during hunting seasons by licensed hunters acting in compliance with game hunting and safety regulations.
- 2.) Signage should be developed (as part of public education and outreach) that directs members of the public entering the Wenas Wildlife Area to areas where target shooting is encouraged, and such areas should be identified with clear signage at the designated areas.
- 3.) Areas (and directions) in which dispersed target shooting are permissible or allowed should be identified on the Wenas Game Area web page, and should be developed by WDFW in consultation with an appropriate citizen's advisory group.
- 4.) Construction and maintenance of firebreaks around the range(s) is strongly encouraged, as is vegetation control on backstop berms.
- 5.) Shooting restrictions during fire danger seasons should apply to high-powered rifles shooting monolithic gilding metal or copper bullets, cup-and-core copper/lead bullets or any steel-jacketed bullets at velocities above 2500 fps, black-powder muzzle-loading or black-powder cartridge firearms. Based on information presented to the Wenas Target Shooting CAG, low-velocity bullets and those fired from conventional/traditional pistol cartridge velocities, or low-velocity smokeless powder rifles or shotguns are unlikely to significantly increase fire risk. Exploding of incendiary targets and/or use of incendiary projectiles, tracers, explosive or flare projectiles should be prohibited on public lands managed by WDFW or WDNR except by specific written permission by the Director or their designee where justification exists.
- 6.) Kittitas County Field and Stream Club should continue to conduct annual shooting area cleanups, and solicit support from local businesses and individuals.

## Definitions

**Backstop Berm:** an earthen berm at least 10-12 ft. (ten to twelve feet) from base to highest elevation with a 1:1 to 1.5:1 (stable) slope toward the firing line with a 1.5-2 ft (one-and-one-half to two foot) face towards the firing line of fine sand, sandy loam or silty loam to absorb bullet impact energy and reduce fire danger. Backstop berms should be maintained free of vegetation as a fire-preventive measure. Periodic maintenance will likely be needed. An area between the backstop berm and the firing line beginning about 20 (twenty) feet toward the firing line and extending to the base of the backstop berm should be graded downward toward the base of the berm from the grade start point at about a 2% grade to minimize movement of lead associated with soil fines.

**External Berm:** an earthen berm aligned perpendicular to the backstop berm and firing line at least 6-8 ft (six to eight feet) in height intended to prevent bullet travel from one range to another adjacent range or road, trail or other land use feature. May be constructed of local material, and generally does not require soft earth facing as do backstop berms.

**Firing Line:** a designated line on a firing range that all activities will remain behind (relative to the backstop berm) when firing is occurring at the range.

**Barricade:** in this context, a barricade is formed by placing posts, gates, large (2-man or larger) rock, logs, etc. to demarcate and separate shooting/firing areas and parking areas, separate both from roads, etc. A barricade in this context should allow passage of people on foot, wheelchairs, small carts and shooting accessories such as folding shooting benches, but not allow passage of vehicles without special arrangements.

**Shotgun-shooting areas (trap-type):** shotgun shooting areas where 'flying' targets are shot differ from solid-projectile (rifle/pistol etc.) ranges in that the flight distance of projectiles is very limited, and as such do not generally require backstop or external berms. Areas recommended for trap-type shotgun shooting should consist of a demarcated target launch area, line-of-fire limit lines (see N. Durr Rd. range recommendation diagram) and should generally have a center of line-of-fire perpendicular to roads and an impact area not impinging on other firing range areas. Areas designated as recommended trap-type shotgun shooting areas should be limited to that use because of the lack of backstop/external berms as a safety consideration.

## WTS Advisory Committee Meeting 4 – Attachment 4 (of 5)

# WTS Advisory Committee: Education and Outreach Draft

## Background

Education and outreach are important components of a long term strategy to improve safety, reduce littering, reduce fire risk, provide habitat protection, and create a better overall environment for all users at the Wenas Wildlife Area. The Committee believes most people are interested in doing the right thing (or doing things the right way), and that the main obstacle to being able to do this is a lack of information. The recommendations described in this document attempt to address this information gap through several different approaches.

## Approach

The recommendations of the Outreach and Education subgroup are based on the notion that visitors to the Wenas Wildlife Area need the following types of information in order to recreate safely and compatibly with other users:

- When are you entering the Wildlife Area?
- What are the applicable rules/regulations for each user group?
- What are the expectations for each user group (shooters, horseback riders, hikers, mountain bikers, dog trainers, motorized users)? How can each group behave responsibly, both within its own activity and around other types of activity?
- Where are more commonly used areas for shooting?
- Where are more commonly used areas for other uses?
- Where are habitat conservation areas?

## Draft Recommendations

1. ***WDFW, working with user groups such as those represented on the WTS Advisory Committee, should develop simple and clear educational materials for people interested in both dispersed and managed shooting at the Wenas.***

Informational materials could include one-page handouts, flyers, maps or postcards that summarize existing rules and best practices for shooting, and fire restrictions (if any) and when they apply. The materials should also describe best practices for other types of users to follow when encountering shooters. Materials could even include paper targets with safety/use information printed on the back. Informational materials could be distributed through multiple channels:

- Outreach to local stores that sell firearms and ammunition (for example, ask retailers to hand out a “best practices” flyer when people purchase a firearm and/or ammunition)
- Shared at events
- Available at DFW offices and on the DFW website
- Shared with local groups such as NRA chapters, Mule Deer Foundation, Field and Stream, 4H clubs, Master Hunters, Backcountry Horsemen, mountain bikers, local Audubon chapters, and hiking groups (note: this list is not comprehensive and is meant to illustrate that there are many local groups that could help distribute information)
- Distributed to local law enforcement and fire departments

- Distributed to Central Washington University

WDFW does not have to start from scratch and can draw on experiences of others to help inform these materials. In many cases, other public agencies and organizations have developed materials that could be adapted for use at the Wenas Wildlife Area. Examples include:

- DNR
  - [Shooting Flyer](#)
  - [Mountain Biking Flyer](#)
  - [Motorized Flyer](#)
- Trash No Land
  - [Brochure: Common Rules for Shooting on Public Lands](#)
- National Shooting Sports Foundation
  - [Fire Warning Flyer](#)
- BLM
  - [Shooting Flyer](#)

**2. WDFW should increase staff presence at the Wildlife Area to offer information to users.**

Every public contact is an opportunity to educate people on appropriate use of the Wildlife Area. WDFW staff should take advantage of these opportunities by handing out informational materials and communicating with members of the public whenever possible (for example, if WDFW staff are undertaking maintenance work and encounter a group of hikers, take the opportunity to provide information). Additionally, WDFW should coordinate staff efforts related to education and outreach during times of high user activity such as weekends and the 2-3 weeks prior to hunting season when a large number of hunters typically access the Wildlife Area to site in their firearms. As with other recommendations, local volunteer groups can bolster WDFW staff presence.

**3. WDFW should use multiple communications methods to reach different user groups and demographics.**

Marketing and communications experts agree that people take in information from a variety of sources and methods, from television to newspaper to Facebook posts. Educating the public on proper use at the Wenas Wildlife Area is no different, and will require a mix of traditional media outreach, social media channels, and personal contact such as talking with users at trailheads, meeting with local groups, and having a presence at local events.

**4. WDFW should develop and install clearer and increased signage at the Wildlife Area.**

The subgroup acknowledges that signs alone are not enough to curb inappropriate behavior or educate the public about “where to go and what to do” at the Wildlife Area. The subgroup also acknowledges that signs may be vandalized or destroyed and will require regular maintenance or replacement (as one Committee member said, “Whoever invents a bullet proof sign will be a very rich person”). However, proper signage is still an important part of education for visitors to the Wildlife Area and should not be neglected. One of the interesting ideas proposed by Committee members is to use the image of the U.S. flag on Wildlife Area signage (possibly even as a background) as a means of deterring vandalism. WDFW could even try an experiment using one sign (or set of signs) with the flag image, and one without, and

see if one set of signs receives more damage. Another idea put forward by Committee members is to put signs in place to ensure people understand that children and families may be playing/recreating nearby (akin to the “slow children at play” signs in many neighborhoods).

**5. WDFW should develop maps to indicate areas of concentrated shooting and areas of lower shooting use, along with high and low use areas for other forms of recreation (hiking trails, dog training areas, etc.).**

These maps could also incorporate information on times of year when uses increase. Committee members note that the Green Dot map is a successful example of a clear, easy to understand map that indicates the appropriate trail system for motorized use at the Wenas Wildlife Area. A similar approach should be undertaken for other uses. An [example map](#) showing multiple uses was recently developed for the Teanaway Community Forest.

**6. WDFW should support development of an Eyes in the Woods program at the Wenas Wildlife Area**

Eyes in the Woods is endorsed by Committee members as an important program that empowers hunters to report inappropriate behavior without the need for direct confrontation. The Outreach and Education subgroup recommends that WDFW support Eyes in the Woods (or a similar type of program at the Wenas Wildlife Area to report behavior such as littering or unsafe practices associated with shooting.

**7. WDFW, in coordination with local groups, should support and expand the use of volunteers.**

Volunteers have been, and will continue to be, an important part of WDFW’s outreach and education efforts. Many of the recommendations described above will be bolstered by volunteer actions, which WDFW can help coordinate in order to maximize outreach and education activities. In addition to the recommendations described above, volunteers can also help WDFW by:

- Providing information at areas commonly used for shooting, to encourage safe and responsible behavior.
- Providing information at Wildlife Area access points about where various types of uses are most likely to occur and how users can safely co-exist.
- Expanding trash pickup beyond the annual cleanups, for example by creating an “Adopt an Area” program similar to the “Adopt a Highway” program.



**WTS Advisory Committee Meeting 4 – Attachment 5 (of 5)**

## WTS Advisory Committee: Small Sites (South) Draft

### Approach

- All uses, including dispersed shooting, should continue to be supported and actively managed at the Wenas Wildlife Area.
- Action should be taken to improve user experiences across all user groups.
- A phased approach is recommended, beginning with actions that are quicker and less expensive to implement, followed by monitoring, and then moving towards more intensive management and investment if and where warranted.
- The phased approach should start with an emphasis on education and outreach for all user groups, public safety and awareness, targeted enforcement emphasis, and minimal improvements to identified locations of concentrated dispersed shooting.
- Overall, we anticipate the phased approach will take 2 years or more to implement; the WTS Advisory Committee should continue to be engaged in monitoring and adaptive management of the phased approach over those 2 years and should have the opportunity to make additional recommendations to further improve user experiences over time.
- At the end of 2 years the WTS should specifically reconsider whether more formal shooting areas are warranted and, if they are, where they should be located and how to manage them.

### Draft Recommendations

- 8. WDFW should immediately begin to actively manage the following locations in the South Wenas Wildlife Area for concentrated shooting:**
  - a. Buffalo Rd – (exact location to be determined) managed for shotgun and pistol only with NW orientation**
  - b. Sheep Company Road (existing shooting site) – managed for rifle and hand gun only with NE orientation**
  - c. Cottonwood (west of intersection of Bell Tel Road and Durr Road)– managed for shotgun only**
- 9. With 6 months, WDFW, working with the WTS Advisory Committee should make minimal improvements to the locations managed for shooting designed to increase the likelihood of safe and predictable behavior and encourage compliance with requirements and expectations. These should include the following:**
  - a. For all locations managed for shooting**
    - i. Improve backstops using existing materials from within the site or commercially sold bullet traps**
    - ii. Identify shooting directions and lanes**
    - iii. Install durable bench rests for sites used for rifle shooting and durable elevated stands at sites used for pistol and shotgun shooting suitable for placing ammunition, supplies, tools, etc.**



- e. Specific (directional) information on other nearby uses and what other users shooters might expect to encounter at each location (e.g., signs locating nearby trails and roads that shooters unfamiliar with the areas might not otherwise be aware of)*
- 13. Within 6 months WDFW should design and implement a Public Safety Awareness Program to increase access to information about the requirements and conduct expectations on public lands and where on the Wenas Wildlife Area users might expect to encounter different activities. At a minimum, this information should address:**
- a. Common location of different uses including roads, trails, horse riding areas, dog training areas, managed shooting locations, and other relevant information on where different uses commonly happen on the Wenas Wildlife Area.*
  - b. Requirements for public conduct.*
  - c. “Good Neighbor” expectations for what users should expect when encountering other uses, and polite behavior / etiquette between user groups.*