

## APPENDIX TO SNOQUALMIE WILDLIFE AREA PLAN SEPA COMMENTS

### Comment 108 - from Cindi Olson:

#### Comments Recorded at the Meeting

##### Overall:

- Keep access open
- Collaborate with dog/hunt groups for upkeep on training areas
- What are the results of dog use study – last year and this
- How did having field trial/tests effect study
- Mowing for dog training
- What about tracking or search and rescue
- Not allow pro-trainers to use the area w/o permit or ban
- At dog meeting must have maps for people to draw where they want dog training to be at Cherry Valley and Crescent Lake
- Resolve conflict of use between retriever, field trial, upland bird trainers – they all have different needs
- Cherry Valley and Stillwater: more shallow ponds for waterfowl hunting
- Acquisition for dog training – Pepper's
- .003% of wildlife land in state to serve 38% of the population
- Put ponds in other places
- Hunting hours are not good for deer/elk hunting
- Breed pheasants with gills
- Solar powered outhouses? Not enough outhouses and not clean enough
- Brian is doing a great job
- Better signs so bikers can get to the river and enjoy more of the WLA
- Signs on parking lots that designate the N vs S parking lots – better signs in general
- More shallow ponds for bird watching
- Why are ag activities allowed during nesting season when dog running is not allowed?
- Car break-ins: need more enforcement presence – may be coordinated with the sheriff.
- DuVall High School or other schools are good sites for holding meetings.

##### Ebey Island:

- Improve roads for volunteer access for pheasant release and public access
- Shallow ponds and access improvements
- Develop master plan for the Island
  - Incorporate agriculture & moist soil management where practical

##### Stillwater:

- Eradicate Himalayan blackberry – there is a lot and it is a noxious weed

##### Crescent Lake:

- There is water available here for dog training
- Keep access open year around
- Clarification on Crescent Lake sign to show dog training area. Zoom out & show "you are here"
- Bring back the bridge @ Crescent from south to center area

##### Cherry Valley:

- After hunting season open the gates
- Maintain access for dog training

Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Public Scoping Meeting  
May 11, 2016

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**Comment 112 - from Cindy Olson:**

**Washington Sporting Dog Training Association**

**April 12, 2018**

**Snoqualmie Wildlife Areas**

**Closure of Snoqualmie Wildlife Areas to Dog Training "Enthusiasts" in 2013**

**Dog Training Enthusiasts** - thoughtful users, tax payers, current on all required licenses and fees, active land maintenance participants

**Why are the dog trainers the only class of stakeholders that are restricted to 10 to 15 acres of land?**

- The complaints about dogs chasing or harassing wildlife are about dog walkers that let their dogs run free. From the 2006 ten year plan: "There is concern that dog walking (not training) on wildlife areas has increased"
- What study was done to support closing the units?

**What areas historically were off limits to all stakeholders?**

- Open access to all SWA's from the mid 1970's to 2013
- Restricted areas: Nesting areas and other wildlife sensitive areas.

**The dog training community believes we were singled out as a stakeholder as a result of:**

- A single enforcement officer, Kim Chandler, in Region 4 having personal issues with dog trainers and Brian Boehm having a dislike of all dogs on the units.
- In 2013 Brian Boehm is hired as the WLA manger for the SWA's and Brian begins a dialog with Kim Chandler and this begins a series of emails between the two (public records), with Kim Chandler is expressing his strong dislike of dog trainers. The following are some quotes from these emails:
  - Note: the gate was never locked for 40 years until the water wheel project
  - Feb 28, 2013 Kim to Brian: responding to Brian's question about unlocking the gate Kim states "**once again these dog folk's are pretty pushy**"
  - March 11, 2013 Kim to Brian: Brian asks about nesting birds (signs) Kim states signs were mainly for dog trainers and "rules signage on the area needs to be there so we have some teeth in citing someone"
  - March 13 2013 Brian to Kim: "I don't want to set a precedence that the gate is open to the public"
  - May 22, 2013 Brian to Kim: at the CAG meeting people asking about re-opening CV to dog training & trials
  - May 22, 2013 Kim to Brian: "**many dog trainers quit using Cherry Valley because the grass got so high ----that was kind of self regulating" why should we mow just for them**
  - May 22, 2013 Brian to Kim: "I told the folks that ---- things may not return as they were in the past"

- June 3, 2013 Brian to Kim: Brian wants info from Kim on the enforcement/historical perspective
- June 3, 2013 Kim to Brian: "once again **I am not really excited about dog training on OUR LANDS** anyway. **What's in it for us?**" **"very few of them are hunters and buy our licenses"** "these guys make a lot of \$\$ from winning hunt tests" **" one guy just out tossing a dummy for his dog. although technically training, probably isn't much of a concern to us"**
- June 5, 2013 Brian to Kim: "I will add this to the stack of information to consider as I wade through this issue"
- April 2, 2014 Brian to Kim: Brian asks enforcement to cite dog trainers not in designated areas
- Dec 3, 2014 Brian to Kim: "our unclear dog-use and training policy, I would like to establish an SWA dog policy"
- Dec 3, 2014 Kim to Brian: "**you both know my feelings about dog training on OUR LANDS**" .... "**we can certainly post rules ... any rules ... as to what you can and can't do ON OUR PROPERTY**" ... "I think the no dogs except when hunting would probably solve the problem"
- Dec 4, 2014 Brian to Kim: "**My feeling is** that training should be seasonal, not extended into the hunting season"
- Dec 4, 2014 Kim to Brian: with regard to hunting regulations specifying SWA allows dog training year round in designated areas, Kim states "**If we want a designated area, we can put up the signs when we want and where we want**" and "a lot of folks think the whole area is open for training"
- Dec 8, 2014 Brian to Kim: notice concerning dog use signs
- Dec 8, 2014 Kim to Brian: signs about new restrictions
- Aug 17, 2015 Brian to Kim: closed all dog training during hunting season except designated areas
- Nov 9, 2015 Paul Gilmore to Commission: requesting the Commission's help regarding access to the lands, loss of parking, locked gates and the location of corn plantings including commenting on the "Chandler emails" referenced above
- Nov 23, 2015 Bob Everitt's response on behalf of the Commission: "your claims of denied access to the Cherry Valley unit are not true" "People have not been denied access to that or any other unit."
- Nov 23, 2015 Paul Gilmore's response to Bob Everitt: shortly after one of Chandler's emails, access to all but designated areas (10 to 15 acres) were created denying us access that Bob seemed not to be aware of in Nov 2015

Note: in 2014 signs were for the first time posted significantly reducing the size of the dog training area to 10 to 15 acres while not restricting any other stakeholder.

**Closure of the SWA's to Dog Training - Timeline**

Ref Doc	Related Emails:	From	To	Subject	Summary of comments
	16-Apr-16	SWA Management Plan public scoping meeting			
A	16-Mar-16	Brian Boehm	Russ Link	SWA Dogs on Leash	SWA Unleashed Dog Proposal
B	23-Nov-15	Paul Gilmore	Bob Everitt	Re: Upcoming Meeting	Paul's response to Bob Everitt letter dated Nov 23, 2015
	23-Nov-15	Bob Everitt	Paul Gilmore	Re: Upcoming Meeting	WDFW response to Paul's letter to the Commission
	9-Nov-15	Paul Gilmore	DFW Commission	Re: Upcoming Meeting	Requesting Commission help re parking, locked gates, location of corn plantings, lack of dog training access. Brian says he will schedule the meeting as his schedule allows
	6-Nov-15	Brian Boehm	Paul Gilmore	Re: Upcoming Meeting	
	3-Nov-15	Paul Gilmore	Brian Boehm	Upcoming Meeting	CV volunteer plan for maintenance on the unit
C	17-Aug-15	Brian Boehm	Kim Chandler	Emailing: Athn all wildlife users	closed dog training on all but "designated areas" during hunting season
D	8-Dec-14	Kim Chandler	Brian Boehm	Re: Emailing: Athn Wildlife Area Users	meant note explaining new dog use restrictions
	8-Dec-14	Brian Boehm	Kim Chandler	Emailing: Athn Wildlife Area Users	note concerning dog use prior to posting new signs
E	9-Dec-14	Jennifer Maurstad	Brian Boehm	Re: signage for dogs	hate to prevent dog walking on Eby Island - allow dogs year-round - non-hunters keep dogs on leash
	8-Dec-14	Brian Boehm	Jennifer Maurstad	Re: signage for dogs	concerning dogs on wildlife areas - hunters complain about illegal dog activities - address with signage
	4-Dec-14	Kim Chandler	Brian Boehm	Re: signage for dogs	"If we want a designated area, we can put up the signs when we want and where we want" There has been confusion and "a lot of folks think the whole area is open for training"
	4-Dec-14	Brian Boehm	Kim Chandler	Re: signage for dogs	"My feeling is that training should be seasonal, not extend into the hunting season"
	3-Dec-14	Kim Chandler	Brian Boehm	Re: signage for dogs	"You both know my feelings about dog training on our lands" We can certainly post rules ... any rules .... As to what you can and can't do on our property"
	3-Dec-14	Brian Boehm	Kim Chandler	signage for dogs	"our unclear dog-use and training policy, I would like to establish a Snoqualmie WLA dog policy" "our WLA's are literally going to the dogs"

F	2-Apr-14	Brian Boehm	Kim Chandler	Eby Is & Crescent Lake Update	asking enforcement to cite dog trainers for training outside the designated training areas
G	30-Sep-13	Kim Chandler	Brian Boehm	Re: Crescent Lake	other issues
	30-Sep-13	Brian Boehm	Kim Chandler	Re: Crescent Lake	contract said no later than 10/4 - written before Brian was hired
	30-Sep-13	Russ Link	Kim Chandler	Re: Crescent Lake	thought the date was 9/30
	29-Sep-13	Kim Chandler	Russ Link	Crescent Lake	Corn still not harvested at Crescent Lake - hunters cannot hunt in standing corn
H	5-Jun-13	Brian Boehm	Kim Chandler	Re: Cherry valley dog groups	Brian will add Kim's comments to his stack of information on the dog issue
	3-Jun-13	Kim Chandler	Brian Boehm	Re: Cherry valley dog groups	"not real excited about dog training on our lands. What's in it for us?" "These guys make a lot of \$\$ from winning hunt tests"
	3-Jun-13	Brian Boehm	Kim Chandler	Fw: Cherry valley dog groups	"connect to discuss this from an enforcement/historical perspective"
	22-May-13	Brian Boehm	Kim Chandler	Re: Cherry valley dog groups	Thanks for your thoughts
	22-May-13	Kim Chandler	Brian Boehm	Re: Cherry valley dog groups	many dog trainers quit using CV because the canary grass was to tall - why should we mow just for them
	22-May-13	Brian Boehm	Kim Chandler	Cherry valley dog groups	"CAG meeting a number of people asked about returning dog trails and training to Cherry Valley" " share your thoughts from an enforcement perspective"
I	11-Mar-13	Brian Boehm	Kim Chandler	Re: Cherry Valley	Brian to reply to dog trainers question about unlocking the gate
	11-Mar-13	Kim Chandler	Brian Boehm	Re: Cherry Valley	nesting signs were mainly for dog trainers. "the rules signage on the areas need to be there so we have some teeth in citing"
	11-Mar-13	Brian Boehm	Kim Chandler	Re: Cherry Valley	Question on nesting birds and hunting
	28-Feb-13	Kim Chandler	Brian Boehm	Re: Cherry Valley	mid April for drive in use "Once again these dog folks are pretty pushy"
	27-Feb-13	Paul Zoba	Kim Chandler	Cherry Valley	Unlocking the gate for dog training
	14-May-12	<b>Signed contract for the Waterwheel Project - gates locked for the project</b>			



**cindyto**

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**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2016 11:02 AM  
**To:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Subject:** FW: Snoqualmie Wildlife Area dogs on leash

-Brian Boehm

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**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2016 1:01 PM  
**To:** Link, Russell E (DFW) (Russell.Link@dfw.wa.gov)  
**Cc:** Dahmer, Paul A (DFW); Sprague, Clay L (DFW); Host, Heidi M (DFW); Myers, Alan A (DFW); Chandler, Kim K (DFW); Maurstad, Jennifer S (DFW) (Jennifer.Maurstad@dfw.wa.gov); Milner, Ruth L (DFW); Anderson, Christopher D (DFW)  
**Subject:** Snoqualmie Wildlife Area dogs on leash

Greetings All,

Please see the attachment above detailing my "leash only" plan for users of the Snoqualmie WLA. Most above have provided comments during the DRAFT version. Paul and Clay, I want to include you so you know, and about future action during the Wildlife Area Management Plan update process currently underway.

If you have comments, please let me know as I would like to post new signs tomorrow, since the hunting season will be over.

Brian Boehm

## Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Unleashed Dog Proposal

March 8, 2016

**Issue:** There are documented and increasing concerns and conflicts occurring year-round relating to the high volume of unleashed dog use on the Cherry Valley, Crescent Lake, and Stillwater Units of Snoqualmie Wildlife Area. Signs requiring pet owners to leash their dogs have been posted for the past two hunting seasons with little effect.

**Basis:** Based on comments and feedback received from local WDFW Enforcement officers, District Biologists, the Wildlife Program Manager, Customer Service, and the public, there is a need to manage unleashed dogs on these three Units, primarily for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat. Documented comments and monitoring data also support the need for this plan.

**The proposal:** The above three Units will be posted as Wildlife Areas for the benefit of wildlife. Each entry point will be posted with signage that reads: "Wildlife Area, Dogs must be leashed, WAC 232-13-180". Additional signage referring to leash requirements will also be posted on sign boards. Initiating a year-round leash requirement for pets may resolve user conflicts during the hunting season.

At Cherry Valley and Crescent Lake, where there is a designated dog training area, entrance points will be posted as "Wildlife Area, Dogs must be leashed except when posted WAC 232-13-180". Signage will be posted on sign boards, and within the designated dog training areas, stating that no leash is required while training in the designated area.

**Other Units:** All of the Ebey Island Unit is currently posted as nesting area with signs stating: "Nesting Area, No dogs allowed" and "No Dogs Except When Hunting" signage (since 2014). This will continue as very few issues arise now that people are aware of this rule. Dogs on leash are allowed on the Ebey Slough dike trail only.

Corson Preserve: Already is a no dog area.

Spencer Island: Based on my observations during periodic visits, most users do not leash their dogs. "Wildlife Area, Dogs must be leashed, WAC 232-13-180" signs will be posted.

### Considerations:

1. This Plan is simple and consistent for users to understand and for WDFW staff to communicate.
2. This Plan is enforceable. Signs at entry points are passed by all users. This eliminates repeat signage inside the unit.
3. This Plan is easy to implement, requiring minimal resources to create, install, and maintain signage.

4. This Plan is supported by existing laws, policies, plans, hunting seasons, and regulations.
5. This Plan is in perfect timing with Wildlife Area Management Plan update and Recreation Management Planning processes. Stakeholder meetings are already scheduled, SEPA review is already required for the plan, and Olympia staff and managers are already engaged in the process.
6. This Plan will be implemented and monitored in 2016. If compliance is achieved, there is no need for further restrictions. If not, next steps are to move to a no dog policy across all 3 units, except in designated dog training areas. This will be communicated in the revised Wildlife Area Plan update.



#137287223  
Public disclosure

cindyto

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**From:** Paul Gilmore [paulg@northwestlinings.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 23, 2015 1:44 PM  
**To:** Everitt, Robert D (DFW)  
**Cc:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW); Link, Russell E (DFW); Director (DFW); Commission (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: Upcoming meeting?

Bob,

I don't find pleasure in writing these emails. The main reason I emailed again was because we had our meeting in JUNE and we discussed performing volunteer work after hunting season closed. It took many emails to get the single meeting in June scheduled to get the problems put on the table. Not to mention about two months. There is effectively NOT an active CAG forum. The last meeting discussed the guidelines established in Ellensburg. I have missed very few meetings where I have been given reasonable notice of the date. I requested a simple planning meeting to begin planning. In fairness to those wanting to donate their PERSONAL time and money, a month of notice before a planned work party is respectful. I simply asking for a meeting in the coming weeks to plan what we will do and what volunteers may need to fill out to make sure we are doing everything "by the book". I don't want to expect to give people some paperwork the day before a planned volunteer day and expect them to drop everything at that moment. Being proactive is the only way to be successful in any project.

Regarding the access, this property is not different from any other. All areas have people off-road illegally, dump garbage and experience seasonal crowding. These are enforcement issues. Should an area become too crowded DFW has made policy to close off access, render property unusable and limit parking at Cherry Valley. If any of you experienced these problems as a businessman, the answer is more access, more parking and increased availability. Can you imagine Walmart closing half the parking area because they see black Friday on the calendar? Because there are a lot of hunters, should we put "Hunting Only" areas limited to just a couple acres on one property? My interest is ensuring we have proper public recreational opportunities available all year long. This does require maintenance year round.

Regarding maintenance, after we paid via donations to have a large area mowed, I had people come up and give me donations to do it again right on the spot. Another took my address and sent a check. It's not hard to get a nod of approval when "Anything" is done. It was really a slap in the face to see people enjoying the property during a time when high canary grass traditionally limited use. Timing the improvements for everyone to enjoy should be the strategy. Sure, mowing right before pheasant release sure makes pheasant release users very happy. What about people who would like to enjoy the open space in late June? The corn is high and canary grass higher. It is unusable to everyone. The pheasant release hunters who use the property a couple times a year certainly won't complain about it after its been knocked down come fall. I'm sure you can understand the point. Catering to a special interest group at any time of the year is inappropriate for the public land. I find this last statement to be even more important now I have read The Outdoor Recreation Act passed into law by Congress which provided federal tax dollars to make the purchase of Cherry Valley possible for future generations to utilize for recreation however they see fit. I am concerned that DFW has not followed the requirements set forth in the Outdoor Recreation Act.

Regarding the plantings, over the last 30 years share cropping has been performed on and off. The current contract has no provisions for replanting in a suitable grass. I have read the contract with the farmer and it states no revegetation must be performed after farming activities. I'm quite certain he would not crop the land if he was required to replant. I brought the issue up prior to the last contract being issued and my comments were disregarded. I recall what was once a nice meadow in Stillwater. It was farmed in corn two years then, abandoned. It first filled with noxious weeds then, filled with alders and blackberries.

Myself and many others are prepared to make positive contributions to the year round maintenance and upkeep on the properties to benefit all people interested in recreation in our open spaces. The people need an open forum where positive

4/6/2018

B

actions can be accomplished and not just discussed. In the time I've spent emailing, I pulled out about 200' LF of barbed wire and posts at Cherry Valley after we mowed a few years back. I'd rather pull out rusty fences than keep going around in circles in emails. I took time off work to meet with the group in June. This takes up my vacation time. I don't think I'm asking a lot to use an hour of a public employees paid time to discuss how I can help get volunteers organized to donate their time, money and equipment. It is also prudent to allow as much time as possible in advance for people to plan around their family and work obligations.

Immediately following Sergeant Chandlers comments the simple access road was blocked and soon after a tiny area was designated for "dog training". They are not "allegations" they are Sergeant Chandlers words. Based upon testimony from a few older dog trainers and his comments, he has a certain and definite bias against the groups. If he didn't, he wouldn't have told Brian how to "keep us out" and go on to call us, "pushy and arrogant" and "we shouldn't let them on "OUR" land". I think he doesn't want any one on "his" DFW properties. Your comment should be that Sergeant Chandlers comments are inappropriate and not representing what DFW represents. At least, that is what I would expect from a public agency. I know this is not how all DFW and WSP employees are instructed to dialog with management about the public. At least not from my experiences working with both departments back in the 1990's.

Best Regards, Happy Thanksgiving to you all. Paul

Paul Gilmore  
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"Helping to Protect the Environment"  
Celebrating 41 Years of Service 1973-2014

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**From:** Everitt, Robert D (DFW) [mailto:Bob.Everitt@dfw.wa.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 23, 2015 11:59 AM  
**To:** paulg@northwestlinings.com  
**Cc:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW); Link, Russell E (DFW); Director (DFW); Commission (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: Upcoming meeting?

Dear Paul:

The Fish and Wildlife Commission asked me to respond to your November 9, 2015 email message (below) regarding your concerns with management of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area. Frankly, I was surprised to read your complaint as it is very similar to one I responded to in April 2015 and resulted in an onsite meeting with you, me, and several other staff and interested parties in late June. During that discussion we went over your concerns (including your assertions on the intent of the original acquisition) and kicked some dirt around on the Cherry Valley Unit. I thought we had reached a good understanding and course of action (which was intended to be implemented in 2016; copy attached). I'm not sure what has changed to prompt your most recent letter, but encourage you to continue your ongoing dialogue with Wildlife Area Manager Brian Boehm.

4/6/2018

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Brian has held his current position since only 2013 and has spent considerable time attempting to reverse the back log of neglected work on the Wildlife Area that resulted during a number of years of inadequate funding and staff cuts. During this time Brian has welcomed volunteer help as evidenced by frequent projects described in his weekly reports (you can access past copies of these reports on our website at: [http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/wildlife\\_weekly/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/wildlife_weekly/)). Not only does Brian complete projects with volunteers, he has also provided donated equipment, fuel, and supplies to help volunteers complete necessary tasks on all units of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area. As you know, Brian has no other paid staff (permanent or seasonal) to help with this work and relies on volunteers, and engaged, dedicated people like you, to get things done.

Your claims of “denied access” to the Cherry Valley Unit are not true. People have not been denied access to that, or any other unit. However, it is true that people are less free to access these areas by driving the field and farm roads to the extent that was allowed in the past. People access the unit through the entrance gates. Given that this Wildlife Area is located near a higher human population than any other the agency manages, dealing with an urban populace is a challenge. However, the Wildlife Area still has access restrictions that are more liberal than other parks and open spaces operated by other governmental agencies in the general vicinity. As we discussed with you in June, changes to service road entrances, parking gates and other access related changes were in response to over-crowded conditions, damage caused by 4X4 vehicles “off-roading”, safety concerns and farmer and restoration contractors requirements for protection of equipment. These changes were not made unilaterally but were part of an ongoing conversation with users, including members of the Wildlife Area’s Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) members. Again, I encourage you to participate in CAG meetings and have your issues heard by others users, some of whom have very different ideas on how best to manage the area.

Agriculture is an active management tool to reduce the many acres of invasive vegetation on the Cherry Valley Unit, which in itself is a barrier to access in many spots. The location of fields under sharecrop contract is based on hydrology and its ability to be accessed by large, heavy farm equipment. Again, we have discussed this, but to repeat, fields are not farmed in order to discourage users. A rotation of corn, grain and grass is a standard agricultural practice. While such rotations may occur in some years at locations where dog training has occurred in the past, in our current rotation plan, a dog training area has been provided in another field near the parking area and has been used by dog trainers.

Brian Boehm has spoken with the disabled veteran referenced in your email. He invited this hunter to join Dolores Noyes, the Department’s ADA Program Manager, on a tour the Cherry Valley Unit on April 16, 2015. Ms. Noyes explained the ADA registration process and how we could accommodate his needs. Apparently the disabled hunter chose to not complete the required paperwork, but Ms. Noyes and Manager Boehm are still prepared to assist him if he changes his mind. If you have contact again with this individual, please pass along this offer.

I want to emphasize that while past and planned management activities may have impacted historic dog training practices, they were not undertaken specifically to target dog trainers or deny their access to the Wildlife Area. The agency’s message on this matter is unchanged from our earlier conversation: which is that these Units are in a period of transition, and short-term changes from historic patterns of use will occur as improved conditions are achieved over time.

Obviously you and some others members of the dog training community are unhappy with management actions on the ground. I believe that the majority of hunters, walkers, wildlife viewers, and users in general, are pleased with the improvements made to the Wildlife Area in just a couple of years. I base this view on conversations with users, phone calls, and is echoed by our customer service staff interactions with users. This agency with many users including wildlife watchers, fish restoration representatives, pheasant hunters, waterfowl hunters, dog walkers, and dog trainers regarding how the various units of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area are managed. It is difficult to please everyone, but we are doing the very best we can with the limited resources that are available to us.

I don’t really know how to respond to your allegations against Sergeant Chandler. You provided a copy of an internal



email conversation that certainly highlights his personal view of this situation, based on his many years of work on and around the Wildlife Area. It does not reflect the policy of the agency, nor has changed our long term management strategy. I have known Sergeant Chandler for a long time (long before he became the local "Sarge") and know him to be one of the best friends any outdoor enthusiast could hope to have. You and I talked about this as well, and I don't know what else to say about it. You may perceive a conspiracy here, but none exists.

I understand that you and Brian are attempting to schedule a time to meet and discuss plans for next year. I have asked him to accommodate this meeting as early as possible, even if it impacts some work planned during the hunting season. Please be patient and know that this is an assigned priority for him.

I encourage you to continue to work with Brian Boehm on your issues of concern and to engage fully in our CAG. Contact Russell Link (425-775-1311 ext. 110 or [Russell.linkl@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Russell.linkl@dfw.wa.gov)) for additional information and guidance on how best to do this if needed.

Sincerely,

Bob Everitt, Regional Director  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
16018 Mill Creek Blvd.  
Mill Creek, WA 98012  
425-775-1311

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**From:** Paul Gilmore [<mailto:paulg@northwestlinings.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 09, 2015 11:34 AM  
**To:** Commission (DFW)  
**Cc:** Director (DFW)  
**Subject:** FW: Upcoming meeting?

Gentlemen,

We have been met with continued discouragement regarding the communication, management and maintenance of the Cherry Valley and surrounding units. I am attempting to get a schedule together for volunteer work in the Spring of 2016 as promised by DFW. We had a meeting which gave us some hopes that the DFW attitude had changed and had an openness to working with us to provide more year round recreational opportunities on our public lands(Snoqualmie Valley Units). Myself and many other users are extremely frustrated with the current management and operations. The DFW has been failing the population of King County for many long years. We have the most densely populated area in the State with the most neglected DFW properties. In the past when I was younger, the Stillwater, Cherry Valley, Crescent Lake and Ebey Island all were mowed and maintained on a reasonable schedule. This allowed access for fishing season, upland hunting, waterfowl and most importantly, any type of year round recreation a person choses. This was the reason which funding was provided to DFW in 1974 via the Outdoor Recreation Act. Current management practices are not following the guidelines set for by the Act. (link provided below)

The pheasant release and farming leases appear to be the only priority of the properties and management. Farming plans seem to take up far too much time and negatively affect the maintenance operations on the properties. *"These properties need maintenance, not management."* Is what I've heard over and over by the general public. The property was purchased with funding from the Outdoor Recreation Act of 1962. This act was written into law to provide funding to purchase large open spaces with the interest of increasing the ability of the public to recreation outdoors. (link provided below) The act outlines that roads should connect the public to uninhibited shorelines and water amongst other items. Special interest group projects have removed that ability on the property. Currently, management has minimized parking areas, locked gates and limited access to the point of full restriction. The corn planting was done on all of the most accessible areas. This is unfortunate to one specific

group in particular. A disabled veteran called me to voice his unhappiness. He was given my contact information via another person who knows I am actively trying to regain the ability of the public to use the property for year round recreational purposes. He has apparently contacted ADA and Veterans Admin and wants to further pursue the issue against DFW because of the locked gates and how he cannot access any fields because of the corn plantings next to the only maintained gravel road on the property. There is not a disabled parking near a decent gravel road to allow access for the disabled. The combination of the locked gate at the gravel access and no parking has eliminated his ability to recreate on the property. This is his account of the situation. I have not confirmed he is a disabled veteran however, I do have his phone number and contact information should you like to speak with him directly. He has spoken with Mr. Boehm and feels his comments and concerns were ignored according to the dialog we had last week.

Another major issue which is a detriment to recreational opportunities is the farming practices and locations chosen by management. A couple years prior, I raised money to pay for mowing at Cherry Valley. The property was used by dog trainers, picnickers, dog walkers, people exercising and people exploring the area. I received constant comments on how great it was to have a few large open fields available for recreational opportunities. I saw people flying kites, I saw a falconer, people photographing deer and enjoying the outdoors. All of those areas are now planted in corn and all of those recreational opportunities can no longer occur. The farming(corn) has been planted in the most accessible, usable and high traffic areas. I believe this is intentional to discourage public use of the property. A corn planting makes the property unusable for the entire spring, summer and fall. (see Sergeant Chandlers comments on how to discourage interest in using the property for recreational purposes below in highlighted yellow) Currently, management has chosen to only mow areas specifically for pheasant release and the timing of the mowing coincided with that activity. Pheasant release is just one short duration of time. I believe the management practices of planting corn in the best and most accessible areas are specifically in reaction to our groups unhappiness towards the way management has maintained the property and prioritized improvements while limiting access. We have highlighted the most desirable areas on a map in the past. Now all those areas are planted in corn making them completely unusable year round. Below are Sergeant Chandlers comments I obtained via public information act. Sergeant Chandler needs to re-read the definitions of "commercial use" because nothing short of an actual dog trial constitutes "commercial use" per the written definition in Washington State. I've excluded the email in which Sergeant Chandler calls dog trainers, "pushy and arrogant". This email chain clearly shows DWF's intention of shutting down public recreation on the property. Mr. Boehm appears to be following the direction of Sergeant Chandler who has a long standing chip on his shoulder against dog trainers dating back to the late 1980's when he had many negative interactions with Oly Jackson and Frank Kasheverov. They were both very successful Amateur dog trainers. We do not make money at trials. No monetary prizes are allowed by the AKC. All of Sergeant Chandlers comments are false including the reference to the WAC law on commercial use. I take offense to Sergeant Chandler calling Cherry Valley, "our lands" referring to State (public) owned property. He obviously has a skewed sense of who owns the land, where the money came from to purchase it and who pays his paycheck. Sergeant Chandler needs to pay attention in his training classes in Oly he mentions rather than making sarcastic comments about them in emails to other managers. See email chain below.....

**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 05, 2013 9:30 AM  
**To:** Chandler, Kim K (DFW)  
**Cc:** Link, Russell E (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: cherry valley dog groups

Thank you Kim for your comments and additional information. I will add this to the stack of information to consider as I wade through this issue. Much appreciated.

-Brian Boehm

**From:** Chandler, Kim (DFW)

4/6/2018

B



**Sent:** Monday, June 03, 2013 12:26 PM  
**To:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Cc:** Link, Russell E (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: cherry valley dog groups

Brian,

Yeah, just too many things going on last week and I'm in Oly this week for training. Anyway, once again, I'm not real excited about dog training on our lands anyway. What's in it for us? We don't get much of the Discover Pass \$\$ and very few of them actually are hunters and buy our licenses. If we are going to allow it, it needs to be understood that it's only on the designated, signed area of Cherry Valley. One thing that may discourage them is the fact that the place isn't mowed and the grass gets pretty high. I don't see where we should make a whole lot of effort to mow just for commercial dog training. Commercial training also raises some concerns. These guys make a lot of \$\$ from winning hunt tests and field trials and many times are actually out there on the property with a customer who is interested in buying one of their dogs. Very difficult to prove but something that all of them should be made aware of. They need a commercial use permit from us to do anything of that sort. One guy just out tossing a dummy for his dog from time to time, although technically training, probably isn't of much concern to us. When some of the big outfits move in there, they pretty much take the place over and get pretty testy when anyone else shows up just wanting to walk their dog. That isn't going to be tolerated. If they have a trial permit, it still does not allow for exclusive use according to the wording on the permit.

Just some thoughts. You can email me back today with anything further and I should be able to reply during a break in this VERY exciting training.

K

*Sergeant  
Kim Chandler*

<image001.jpg>

*WDFW*

*Detachment 10*

*King County*

**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 03, 2013 8:20 AM  
**To:** Chandler, Kim (DFW)  
**Subject:** FW: cherry valley dog groups

Good Morning Kim,

I wanted to re-send this email about Cherry Valley and dog training to you. We were going to try to connect to discuss this from an enforcement/historical perspective. We didn't, so I thought you may be able to provide some insight via email instead. My CAG meeting is tomorrow evening, and any information you could provide will be helpful. Much appreciated.

-Brian Boehm

**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 10:46 AM  
**To:** Chandler, Kim (DFW)  
**Subject:** cherry valley dog groups

Greetings Kim,

4/6/2018

B

At my recent CAG meeting, a number of people asked about returning dog trials and training to Cherry Valley. I offered to explore the idea with them, but need a bit of information. I thought you may be able to provide your perspective on this issue, since you have been around awhile. Can you share your concerns and thoughts from an enforcement perspective? I told the folks that due to many changes on the Unit, things may not return as they were in the past.

Any information you can provide is appreciated. If you would rather discuss this, please give me a call or drop in at the Honor Farm office. I will be at MC1 tomorrow afternoon if that is convenient for you. Let me know.

Respectfully;

Brian Boehm  
Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager  
WDFW Region 4, Mill Creek  
425-327-4869

In Summation,

I ask each of you read the Outdoor Recreation Act which I have linked below. The DFW made application for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Act. Funding was granted in 1974 for purchase of the Cherry Valley property.  
[http://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\\_books/anps/anps\\_5d.htm](http://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/anps/anps_5d.htm)

I'm asking the commission's formal assistance to increase parking, remove locks from gates and specifically, not to allow corn to be planted in accessible and areas highly desirable for year round recreation. I am asking for complete public input on the plan which will be drafted by Mr. Boehm because of a lack of confidence in the DFW's ability to provide public recreation opportunities on our only open spaces in King County. We are asking the corn planting to be moved to the back eastern most region of the property which is least accessible to the general public, people with disabilities and therefore causing the least impact upon people attempting to enjoy public lands. Thank you for your consideration, Feel free to call me if you would like my experience and testimony in person at your next commissioners meetings. I would like to proceed with investigating how to actually make changes on how these properties are managed moving forward immediately. Please give me direction on how to begin any process which may be required.

Best Regards,

Paul Gilmore  
Construction Installation Sales and Business Development  
Northwest Linings & Geotextile Products, Inc.  
21000 77th Ave South  
Kent, WA 98032  
P: 253-796-0012 Construction Office  
D: 253-867-5367 Direct Line  
C: 206-851-6326 Cell  
F: 253-872-6953  
[paulg@northwestlinings.com](mailto:paulg@northwestlinings.com)  
[www.northwestlinings.com](http://www.northwestlinings.com)  
"Helping to Protect the Environment"  
Celebrating 41 Years of Service 1973-2014

**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW) [<mailto:Brian.Boehm@dfw.wa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 06, 2015 12:06 PM

4/6/2018

B

**To:** Paul Gilmore  
**Cc:** Link, Russell E (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: Upcoming meeting?

Greetings Paul,

Your enthusiasm for this volunteer project is clearly evident. Your pace and my current work load do not match very well. With pheasant season in peak swing, and waterfowl just ramping up on five hunting Units, and a host of other projects that I am working on, my availability is very limited. As I told you during our last communication, I will contact you when it is pertinent to discuss this.

What I see as the next step is you and I meeting to talk about scope and scale, and how this volunteer effort fits with the other activities I have going on at Cherry Valley. Somewhere in late January or early February. Hunting season goes to March 15, and flood season often extends into May, so we have plenty of time. Meanwhile, I will be working on clearing out a lot of my current priorities, including developing next year's work plan. This includes details on my agricultural plan, drainage issues, and current restoration projects to name a few. All of these will need to be considered as we further develop this action plan.

I have lots of irons in the fire Paul, so please be patient. I will keep in touch.

-Brian Boehm

**From:** Paul Gilmore [mailto:paulg@northwestlinings.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 03, 2015 9:57 AM  
**To:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Cc:** Link, Russell E (DFW); Commission (DFW)  
**Subject:** Upcoming meeting?

Brian,

I would like to get a meeting scheduled which would be open to the key volunteers interested in making the improvements we discussed on the property. I know some people aren't interested in the meeting portions and just want to show up and accomplish tasks. I wanted to get a plan together to complete all of the items we discussed immediately following the wrap up of hunting season. I would like to have a month or more to notify people of a given date of a work start date. I have had an impromptu meeting with a fraction of the volunteers who are ready to make this property a centerpiece of public recreational opportunities for year round use.

Also, will volunteers be required to complete paperwork? If so, I want to distribute the needed forms immediately. I want to do this well in advance of scheduling work parties for the gate installations and other tasks so this all goes smoothly without interruption.

Hunting season will be over soon and everyone will have their decoys back in storage and ready to put on some work boots. What date works good for a meeting to get a plan laid down?

Cheers,

Paul Gilmore  
Construction Installation Sales and Business Development  
Northwest Linings & Geotextile Products, Inc.  
21000 77th Ave South  
Kent, WA 98032

4/6/2018

B

P: 253-796-0012 Construction Office  
D: 253-867-5367 Direct Line  
C: 206-851-6326 Cell  
F: 253-872-6953  
[paulg@northwestlinings.com](mailto:paulg@northwestlinings.com)  
[www.northwestlinings.com](http://www.northwestlinings.com)  
"Helping to Protect the Environment"  
Celebrating 41 Years of Service 1973-2014



cindyto

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**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2016 10:55 AM  
**To:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Subject:** FW:C Emailing: Attention All Wildlife Users.docx, Hunting season dog training.docx, Hunting season no dog training.docx

   
Attention All  
Wildlife Users.d...

   
Hunting season  
dog training.do...

   
Hunting season  
no dog training...

Brian Boehm

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2015 11:14 AM  
**To:** Chandler, Kim K (DFW)  
**Cc:** Maurstad, Jennifer S (DFW) (Jennifer.Maurstad@dfw.wa.gov); Powers, Carol E (DFW); Thomas, Ericka N (DFW); Host, Heidi M (DFW)  
**Subject:** Emailing: Attention All Wildlife Users.docx, Hunting season dog training.docx, Hunting season no dog training.docx

Greetings All,

Just to let you know, I will be posting signs like the ones attached at the pheasant release sites today. Please review them in case you get calls. Additional signage will be posted as we get closer to Sept. and the pheasant season. Stay tuned...

Brian Boehm  
425-327-4869

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Attention All Wildlife Users.docx  
Hunting season dog training.docx  
Hunting season no dog training.docx

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.



# Attention Wildlife Area Users

Hunting season is Sept. 1 – March 15

Keep pets on leash (RCW 232-13-180)

Avoid hunter's activities

Safety orange advised

Dog training allowed in designated area only



*Washington Department of*  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**



# Attention Wildlife Area Users

**Hunting season opens Sept. 1**

**Restricted hours Sept. 1 – Nov. 30, 2015**

**Unit is open from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

**No entry during closed hours**



*Washington Department of*  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**



## Attention Wildlife Area Users

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) regulates dog-activities on Wildlife Areas.

Because of continuous negative interactions between hunters, pedestrians, hunting dogs and pets, and to improve public safety, changes to dog use are coming soon.

Please watch for new signs explaining the changes.



*Washington Department of*  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

D

# Attention Wildlife Area Users

Hunting season is Sept. 1 – March 15

Keep pets on leash (RCW 232-13-180)

Avoid hunter's activities

Safety orange advised

No dog training at this Unit



Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

③  
C

# Attention Wildlife Area Users

Hunting season is Sept. 1 – March 15

Keep pets on leash (RCW 232-13-180)

Avoid hunter's activities

Safety orange advised

No dog training at this Unit



Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**





**cindyto**

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**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2016 10:04 AM  
**To:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Subject:** FW: Enforcement: Attention Wildlife Area Users - Dog Use.docx

-Brian Boehm

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Chandler, Kim K (DFW)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2014 12:26 PM  
**To:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Cc:** Link, Russell E (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: Attention Wildlife Area Users - Dog Use.docx

That looks good. Actually what I meant was a short paragraph explaining the new dog restriction signs when they do go up. I'm thinking that an explanation of why the changes have been made might cut down on the phone calls. That way when we find folks ignoring the signs, we can also point to the letter.

Sergeant  
Kim Chandler

WDFW  
Detachment 10  
King County

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2014 12:09 PM  
**To:** Chandler, Kim K (DFW)  
**Cc:** Link, Russell E (DFW)  
**Subject:** Emailing: Attention Wildlife Area Users - Dog Use.docx

Greetings Kim,

You suggested I post a note concerning dog-use prior to posting new signs. Please give the attachment a read and provide comments. I would like to post this today as signs are ready on Friday.

Thanks,

Brian Boehm  
425-327-4869

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Attention Wildlife Area Users - Dog Use.docx

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

# Attention Wildlife Area Users

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) regulates dog-activities on Wildlife Areas.

Because of continuous negative interactions between hunters, pedestrians, hunting dogs and pets, and to improve public safety, changes to dog use are coming soon.

Please watch for new signs explaining the changes.



Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

cindyto

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**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2016 10:52 AM  
**To:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Subject:** FW:enf2 signage for dogs

-Brian Boehm

---

**From:** Maurstad, Jennifer S (DFW)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 09, 2014 10:14 AM  
**To:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Cc:** Chandler, Kim K (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: signage for dogs

That's a tough one. I hate to prevent folks from walking their dogs at Ebey because it's such a nice/popular place to do so. Most folks are respectful and keep their dogs on a leash. If we did post signs it would be just for the hunting season, right? I would rather allow dog walkers year-round with a sign stating something to the effect: "non-hunters must keep their dogs on leash and walk the dike only."

...I'm not sure Brian, let me give it some thought.

Jennifer

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**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2014 12:29 PM  
**To:** Maurstad, Jennifer S (DFW)  
**Subject:** FW: signage for dogs

Greetings Jennifer,

See the e-trail below concerning dogs on wildlife areas. I have heard numerous complaints from hunters and observed illegal dog behavior on all of the wildlife areas this hunting season. I would like to address these issues with signage targeting certain areas and certain activities.

I did get complaints at Ebey, and last year I recall people with dogs using them to hunt the left-over pheasant. At Ebey, I would like to post signs in the hunting areas that say "No Dogs, Except While Hunting". Further signage will follow for after the hunting season and I will share that with you as well.

Any thoughts on this?

-Brian Boehm

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**From:** Chandler, Kim K (DFW)  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 1:10 PM  
**To:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: signage for dogs

Well, the pamphlet actually says something like year around dog training allowed on "designated portions" of WMA's so I think

4/7/2018

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if we don't have a designated portion then there is no dog training allowed. Just like the 8-4 signs, when they are there it means 8-4, when we take them down..... If we want a designated area, we can put the signs up when want to and where we want to. Make sense? Might want to type up a little paragraph explaining that so we can post it. There has always been some confusion on the wording "designated portions" and a lot of folks think the whole area is open for training all the time. It make take a little while to get the public used to it. Also if you look on page 15 of the pamphlet you'll see that dog training as of right now is still only 8-4.

*Sergeant  
Kim Chandler*



*WDFW  
Detachment 10  
King County*

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**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 1:02 PM  
**To:** Chandler, Kim K (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: signage for dogs

Hey Kim,

We have signs saying "Year Round dog training area" that are posted. Is the year-round part tied to WAC or RCW's? The hunting pamphlet also discusses year round training in WLA's. My feeling is that training should be seasonal, and not extend into the hunting season. Can I make that call at the local level or is this tied to law?

-Brian Boehm

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**From:** Chandler, Kim K (DFW)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 03, 2014 11:23 AM  
**To:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Cc:** Link, Russell E (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: signage for dogs

You both already know my feelings about dog training on our lands. Off leash areas are certainly limited in King County and rightly so, nobody wants dogs just running around on their property. There are only a few designated off leash areas in some of the parks, otherwise dogs have to be on a leash anywhere in the county. I would think that even though the property is state land, it still would come under the county ordinances. Maybe not but we can certainly post rules.....any rules.....as to what you can and can't do on our property. I too have had complaints of off leash dogs interrupting hunts and just plain being a nuisance. I'm all for your proposal Brian. Dogs on leash OK? Hard to enforce that when an offender looks over and sees a "hunting" dog off leash? I think the "NO DOGS EXCEPT WHEN HUNTING" would probably solve that problem. Since the 8-4 signs have been taken down now, there is lots of room on the sign boards for new signs so I say go for it.

4/7/2018

E



*Sergeant  
Kim Chandler*



*WDFW  
Detachment 10  
King County*

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**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 03, 2014 11:12 AM  
**To:** Chandler, Kim K (DFW)  
**Cc:** Link, Russell E (DFW)  
**Subject:** signage for dogs

Greetings Kim and Russ,

In response to numerous reports, complaints, and eye witness accounts, about non-hunters walking or training their pets and dogs in hunting areas, I would like to post new signs. Pheasant season is over but there are two months of waterfowl hunting to go as well as increasing numbers of swans at Crescent Lake. Users run their pets off-leash wherever they please disrupting waterfowl, our pheasant release, and hunters.

Last year, at the end of pheasant season I had reports and witnessed people allowing their dogs to "hunt" the remaining pheasants and kill them. I expect the same this season.

The sign would simply state: "No dogs except while hunting". For the training sites, it could read "No dogs except while hunting or training in designated training area", but I am hesitant about this one as I feel training during hunting season should not be allowed.

Also, with the numerous complaints, and our unclear dog-use and training policy, I would like to establish a Snoqualmie WLA dog policy unless there is already one that I don't know about. Every National, state, county and city park has restrictions for dogs except on our wildlife areas. I want to remedy this. As I have seen over the past two years, our WLA's are literally going to the dogs. It's tough to attract wildlife with all of this traffic. Any thoughts?

Brian Boehm

E



**cindyto**

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**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015 11:12 AM  
**To:** Public Disclosure, Wildlife (DFW)  
**Subject:** FW: Ebey Island and Crescent Lake update. 15018

-Brian Boehm

---

**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 02, 2014 11:04 AM  
**To:** Chandler, Kim K (DFW)  
**Cc:** Maurstad, Jennifer S (DFW) (Jennifer.Maurstad@dfw.wa.gov)  
**Subject:** Ebey Island and Crescent Lake update.

Greetings Officers,

I wanted to let you know of a couple things. First, at Ebey Island, I closed the west lobe and parking area as a Nesting Area, no people, no dogs, and locked the entrance gates. There are a lot of waterfowl species starting to breed and nest out there and too many folks are running the place like a dog park. Secondly, cattle are coming into that area on 4-15-2014 and I don't want cow/dog/people issues, and I don't want people leaving gates open without knowing about it. I frequent the area often, but if you could take a peak when you are in the area that would be great.

Secondly, at Crescent Lake, on the weekends there has been frequent and large numbers of dog trainers using the south parking area and working their dogs in an area not specified for dog training. I have heard there are barbeque grills by the old boat launch so it sounds like it's getting out of control. If you are in the area on the weekend, can you keep an eye out for this activity. I really want to keep the dog training in the area that is dedicated for it near the north lot.

Thanks for your assistance in these areas.

Brian Boehm  
Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager  
425-327-4869

cindyto

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**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015 11:17 AM  
**To:** Public Disclosure, Wildlife (DFW)  
**Subject:** FW: Crescent Lake 15018

-Brian Boehm

---

**From:** Chandler, Kim (DFW)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2013 9:35 AM  
**To:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW); Link, Russell E (DFW)  
**Cc:** Maurstad, Jennifer S (DFW); Stevens, Lance (DFW); Everitt, Bob (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: Crescent Lake

Thanks Brian, I don't mind "taking the heat" as that's just part of the job. On a side note, I did check 4 knuckleheads coming out of the corn at 5:10 last night with 5 birds so apparently the hunting wasn't all that bad. They were dealt with appropriately but there were no 8-4 signs posted at the center gate. That center gate at Crescent needs some 8-4 signs. You are probably going to have to get a ladder to post high enough on the tree so they don't get torn down. We'll get there as a team effort. One of the big problems with this area is it's in Snohomish County and anything we cite for has to be air tight or the prosecutor flushes them down the toilet. Signs are sometimes critical for being able to make the case.

*Sergeant  
Kim Chandler*



*WDFW  
Detachment 10  
King County*

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**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2013 9:25 AM  
**To:** Link, Russell E (DFW); Chandler, Kim (DFW)  
**Cc:** Maurstad, Jennifer S (DFW); Stevens, Lance (DFW); Everitt, Bob (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: Crescent Lake

Greetings All,

I reviewed the contract that I inherited and the harvest date is "no later than October 4" unless authorized by WDFW. Why this

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4/6/2018

date was selected I do not know as it does overlap the pheasant opener. I have been working with Werkhoven since early September to set the harvest plan. They said they wanted to harvest late last week. With the wet weather, they postponed. I reminded them of the pheasant opener on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Technically, they are still within the contract date for harvest. There is no mention in the contract of what happens if the date is passed by the way.

I apologize to you Kim for taking the heat because of this recurring event. Future contracts that I draft will address these issues.

Respectfully;

Brian Boehm  
Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager  
WDFW Region 4, Mill Creek  
425-327-4869

---

**From:** Link, Russell E (DFW)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2013 8:44 AM  
**To:** Chandler, Kim (DFW)  
**Cc:** Maurstad, Jennifer S (DFW); Stevens, Lance (DFW); Boehm, Brian J (DFW); Everitt, Bob (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: Crescent Lake

I believe the date in the contract for corn harvest is Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. I've asked Brian to provide an update.

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**From:** Chandler, Kim (DFW)  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 29, 2013 11:22 AM  
**To:** Link, Russell E (DFW)  
**Cc:** Maurstad, Jennifer S (DFW); Stevens, Lance (DFW); Boehm, Brian J (DFW); Everitt, Bob (DFW)  
**Subject:** Crescent Lake

Russ,  
I'm sitting in the north lot at Crescent Lake looking at acres and acres of standing corn that has not been harvested. This is unacceptable. This happened last year too, it was long after the pheasant opener that the corn was harvested. These western Washington pheasant permit hunters spend a lot of money to hunt these release sites and it's extremely difficult to hunt corn like this, particularly if you don't have a dog. I was under the impression that the sharecropper, Werkhoven I believe, is under a contract and is required to have the corn harvested prior to the pheasant opener. He needs to get on this and in the future if he pulls this stunt again there needs to be a consequence. It's a nasty day today with wind and rain so there are only three vehicles parked in the lot, but I just talked to two other hunters who drove in, looked at the corn, pitched me a bitch about it and left.

*Sergeant  
Kim Chandler*



WDFW

*Detachment 10  
King County*



**cindyto**

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**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015 11:15 AM  
**To:** Public Disclosure, Wildlife (DFW)  
**Subject:** FW: cherry valley dog groups 15018

-Brian Boehm

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**From:** Chandler, Kim (DFW)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 03, 2013 12:26 PM  
**To:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Cc:** Link, Russell E (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: cherry valley dog groups

Brian,

Yeah, just too many things going on last week and I'm in Oly this week for training. Anyway, once again, I'm not real excited about dog training on our lands anyway. What's in it for us? We don't get much of the Discover Pass \$\$ and very few of them actually are hunters and buy our licenses. If we are going to allow it, it needs to be understood that it's only on the designated, signed area of Cherry Valley. One thing that may discourage them is the fact that the place isn't mowed and the grass gets pretty high. I don't see where we should make a whole lot of effort to mow just for commercial dog training. Commercial training also raises some concerns. These guys make a lot of \$\$ from winning hunt tests and field trials and many times are actually out there on the property with a customer who is interested in buying one of their dogs. Very difficult to prove but something that all of them should be made aware of. They need a commercial use permit from us to do anything of that sort. One guy just out tossing a dummy for his dog from time to time, although technically training, probably isn't of much concern to us. When some of the big outfits move in there, they pretty much take the place over and get pretty testy when anyone else shows up just wanting to walk their dog. That isn't going to be tolerated. If they have a trial permit, it still does not allow for exclusive use according to the wording on the permit.

Just some thoughts. You can email me back today with anything further and I should be able to reply during a break in this VERY exciting training.

K

*Sergeant  
Kim Chandler*



*WDFW  
Detachment 10  
King County*

H

4/6/2018

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**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 03, 2013 8:20 AM  
**To:** Chandler, Kim (DFW)  
**Subject:** FW: cherry valley dog groups

Good Morning Kim,

I wanted to re-send this email about Cherry Valley and dog training to you. We were going to try to connect to discuss this from an enforcement/historical perspective. We didn't, so I thought you may be able to provide some insight via email instead. My CAG meeting is tomorrow evening, and any information you could provide will be helpful. Much appreciated.

-Brian Boehm

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**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 10:46 AM  
**To:** Chandler, Kim (DFW)  
**Subject:** cherry valley dog groups

Greetings Kim,

At my recent CAG meeting, a number of people asked about returning dog trials and training to Cherry Valley. I offered to explore the idea with them, but need a bit of information. I thought you may be able to provide your perspective on this issue, since you have been around awhile. Can you share your concerns and thoughts from an enforcement perspective? I told the folks that due to many changes on the Unit, things may not return as they were in the past.

Any information you can provide is appreciated. If you would rather discuss this, please give me a call or drop in at the Honor Farm office. I will be at MC1 tomorrow afternoon if that is convenient for you. Let me know.

Respectfully;

Brian Boehm  
Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager  
WDFW Region 4, Mill Creek  
425-327-4869

H

**Paul Gilmore**

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**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 4:08 PM  
**To:** Chandler, Kim K (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: cherry valley dog groups

Thanks for your advance thoughts on this Kim. I'll be at the training and pop in on you afterwards. I am also checking in with Kye. Maybe we all can chat together. bjb

-Brian Boehm

**From:** Chandler, Kim (DFW)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 11:46 AM  
**To:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: cherry valley dog groups

Brian,  
I have to be at MC tomorrow morning for training from 8-12 so I'll hang around in the afternoon. We can talk then..... One thought that immediately came to mind was the fact that many of the dog trainers quit using Cherry Valley because the grass got too high for them. That was kind of a self-regulating phenomenon that took care of itself. I'm not so sure we would have the \$\$ to be mowing just for them. Also, I was just talking to Kye this morning about dog training on out sites and the commercial use issue came up again. I'll fill you in on that tomorrow.....

K

*Sergeant  
Kim Chandler*



*WDFW  
Detachment 10  
King County*

**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 10:46 AM  
**To:** Chandler, Kim (DFW)  
**Subject:** cherry valley dog groups

Greetings Kim,

At my recent CAG meeting, a number of people asked about returning dog trials and training to Cherry Valley. I offered to explore the idea with them, but need a bit of information. I thought you may be able to provide your perspective on this issue, since you have been around awhile. Can you share your concerns and thoughts from an enforcement perspective? I told the folks that due to many changes on the Unit, things may not return as they were in the past.

Any information you can provide is appreciated. If you would rather discuss this, please give me a call or drop in at the Honor Farm office. I will be at MC1 tomorrow afternoon if that is convenient for you. Let me know.

Respectfully;

Brian Boehm  
Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Manager  
WDFW Region 4, Mill Creek  
425-327-4869



**Paul Gilmore**

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**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2013 2:00 PM  
**To:** Chandler, Kim K (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: Cherry Valley

Thanks for the clarification Kim. I'll relay that to the caller. THE gate was open on Saturday because there was a volunteer planting event. WFC was supposed to lock it after they left. Not sure if they did though. I'll check and remind them that they need to lock the gate when they leave or call me to do it. I don't want to set precedence that the gate is now open for the public. Brian

**From:** Chandler, Kim (DFW)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2013 1:57 PM  
**To:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: Cherry Valley

Brian,

Good to know about the planting crew, we'll give just about anybody consideration for a while. I did notice that the gate was open this weekend. Will that be open for access to the planting area by these folks or should they be closing the gate behind them?

Yes, hunting is OK year around on our areas and yes, with the restrictions you offered up. The nesting area historically has been closed to all use if it's posted well enough so that there is no confusion. That was mainly to keep dog training out of that center area but actually, if it's a nesting area then all users should have to steer clear.

As we talked this weekend, the "rules" signage on the areas need to be there so we have some teeth in citing someone in the wrong. In looking at them, I noticed that it says "No Trap Shoooung". I'm not sure how many of those signs are still around but I think we need to look at "No Target Shooting" so there is no confusion. While the restriction of rifles and pistols sort of covers that, no target shooting would cover it all.

*Kim Chandler*



SERGEANT  
WDFW  
Detachment 10  
King County

**From:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2013 1:37 PM  
**To:** Chandler, Kim (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: Cherry Valley

Greetings Kim,

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I wanted to let you know that Wild Fish Conservancy, Sound Salmon Solutions, and Stewardship Partners will have staff and vehicles this week at the Cherry Valley Unit. They are planting approximately 7 acres of the construction zone for Waterwheel Creek (NE corner). The company trucks have parking passes but there may be a couple personal vehicles associated with the groups that do not. All will be parked inside the access gates.

Also, a guy called last week with questions about hunting coyote at Stillwater. They are huntable year-round according to state regulations. His question was could he hunt at Stillwater? I explained the site requirements, (shot gun, non-toxic, within posted hours). Are there other restrictions that I am overlooking? Do we allow hunting on our Units year-round if all rules are followed or do we shut them down so users don't have to be under fire during the year? The reason I question this is I have seen "this area closed to protect nesting waterfowl" signs at Cherry Valley. Is this current, and do we "close" areas off for nesting birds, thus not allowing hunting?

Any guidance you can provide is appreciated. Brian

**From:** Chandler, Kim (DFW)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2013 2:53 PM  
**To:** Boehm, Brian J (DFW)  
**Subject:** FW: Cherry Valley

Brian,  
Can you get back to this guy and explain our gate opening? I think we were talking about mid-April for drive in use? Once again, some of these dog folks are pretty pushy.

*Kim Chandler*



SERGEANT  
WDFW  
Detachment 10  
King County

**From:** Paul E. Zoba [mailto:paul@zoba.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2013 2:19 PM  
**To:** Chandler, Kim (DFW)  
**Subject:** Cherry Valley

Hi Kim,

I hunt in Cherry Valley and am a WA certified Master Hunter and also a Hunter Education Instructor. You and I met last year at Cherry Valley one time during pheasant season...

I have a new puppy. It's a Verein Deutsch Drathaar, similar to a German Wire Haired Pointer but bred under German performance breeding rules. We have a bit of a training club coming together and we were wanting to spend some training time in Cherry Valley which I believe is allowed for this purpose. Question: Is there anyway to unlock the gates so we can drive into the fields with the training equipment?

Thanks for any assistance or information you can provide.



Best -

Paul Zoba

22209 NE 156th Place, Woodinville  
206-920-8388



**Comment 143: from Sam Pace**

**DATE:** April 25, 2018

**TO:** WDFW

**DELIVERY:** Email to - [SEPADesk2@DFW.wa.gov](mailto:SEPADesk2@DFW.wa.gov)

**FROM:** Sam Pace, Immediate Past President [Sam@SamPace.com](mailto:Sam@SamPace.com)  
Whistling Wings HRC (253) 630-5541  
29839 154<sup>th</sup> Ave SE  
Kent, WA 98042-4557

**RE:** **SEPA COMMENTS RE: Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas, including but not limited to**  
**Restoration of Historical Dog Training Uses at Cherry Valley Wildlife Area**

Dear WDFW:

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Immediate Past President of Whistling Wings Hunting Retriever Club (WWHRC) to request the Department in its 10 year plan direct the Cherry Valley site in the Snoqualmie Valley be re-opened to dog training in a manner consistent with the historical use of the property that has been allowed for most of the time since the property was acquired in the mid-1970s.

Whistling Wings HRC is a welcoming, non-profit, all volunteer club helping owners develop their family dogs into well-trained retrievers for hunting, home and retrieving field competitions. Whistling Wings HRC is affiliated with the Hunting Retriever Club (HRC) program of the United Kennel Club (UKC).

Whistling Wings HRC is also the oldest, and largest, HRC club west of the Rocky Mountains. Our club was founded in the Snoqualmie Valley, and held its very first competition at Cherry Valley after the property was purchased by the State of Washington.

From October to February, our members go bird hunting. But from February through September we hold monthly training days (and extend invitations to those sessions to approximately 165 families on our distribution list). We also have an additional 300 families (who own retrievers that are trained on a regular basis to be proficient in the field) that we communicate with periodically during the year.

In addition, we typically hold twice-yearly retriever competitions in the Snoqualmie River Valley, and regularly draw dogs and handlers from British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California and Montana. Last summer we also drew entries from as far away as Alaska and Texas. Those events not only meet the needs of dog owners, they pump tourist dollars (meals, motels, gas, etc.) into the local economies of Duvall, Carnation, Fall City, Issaquah, Snoqualmie, North Bend, Redmond and Monroe.

Whistling Wings got its start at Cherry Valley, and our members and our Board have repeatedly expressed strong interest in using the Cherry Valley site for hunting retriever training as they were previously able, and allowed, to do.



**However, in recent years, we have been functionally evicted from being able to use the property for retriever training, and hunting retriever events, due to local WDFW restrictive management practices that:**

- 1. Are inconsistent with the historic uses of the property (since it was acquired by the State) that included dog training, which along with hunting was one of the most popular public uses of the property.**
- 2. Constrain the portion of the property available for hunting retriever training to approximately 20 acres, which is far less acreage than is required for the activity, and far less acreage than was previously available for dog training.**

**Additionally, the opportunity to train dogs to retrieve waterfowl dispatched on water has been eliminated. We hunt ducks and geese over water, and dogs need to know how to work in both swimming water and running water. Originally, we had access to water on the Cherry Valley property for purposes of dog training, but now there is only access to about 20 acres of land, which is totally inadequate for field dog training and/or field events.**

- 3. Refused to mow the property. Refusing to mow is not only inconsistent with DFW's past practice, local DFW staff has expressly acknowledged that refusing to mow renders the property unusable for dog training (see the e-mail on page 3 of these comments regarding not mowing to "*discourage them*" from dog training).**

**This practice of not mowing has continued even when money has been raised by the dog training community to cover the cost: When "cost" was offered as a rationalization for not mowing, the dog training community raised \$2,000 in about 24 hours. Mowing – paid for with portions of those funds - was only allowed once, and even though funding remains available to cover the cost, mowing has not been allowed since then. In 2017 members of the sporting dog community mowed the property at their own expense, but the local manager has failed to follow up to ensure the mowing continues, even on a volunteer basis and no marginal expense to the Department.**

- 4. Confined limited parking so close to the state highway that egress/ingress results in serious (but artificially DFW-created) safety issues for vehicles entering the parking lot, vehicles leaving the parking lot, and for dogs being loaded on-to and off-of vehicles in the parking lot.**
- 5. Eliminated our access to safer parking areas closer to the center of the property (adjacent to the seasonal water ponds).**
- 6. Effectively deprive less physically capable individuals (and especially the disabled, and too many of our seniors) from being able to make safe use of the property for retriever training as they previously could do.**

To the extent any of the recently implemented local WDFW restrictive management practices that have functionally evicted dog training from the Cherry Valley site are based on the substance of the following e-mail (or to the extent they are based on *local management sentiments* within WDFW that are consistent with the following e-mail) I think it is important that the substance of this agency e-mail be addressed directly. The department has refused to do so since at least 2016. The e-mail I'm referencing states:

**From:** Chandler, Kim (DFW)

**Sent:** Monday, June 03, 2013 12:26 PM

**To:** Boehm, Brian (DFW)

**Cc:** Link, Russell E (DFW)

Brian,

Yeah, just too many things going on last week and I'm in Oly this week for training. Anyway, once again, I'm not real excited about dog training on our lands anyway. What's in it for us? We don't get much of the Discover Pass \$\$ and very few of them actually are hunters and buy our licenses. If we are going to allow it, it needs to be understood that it's only on the designated, signed area of Cherry Valley. One thing that may discourage them is the fact that the place isn't mowed and the grass gets pretty high. I don't see where we should make a whole lot of effort to mow just for commercial dog training. Commercial training also raises some concerns. These guys make a lot of \$\$ from winning hunt tests and field trials and many times are actually out there on the property with a customer who is interested in buying one of their dogs. Very difficult to prove but something that all of them should be made aware of. They need a commercial use permit from us to do anything of that sort. One guy just out tossing a dummy for his daughter from time to time, although technically training, probably isn't of much concern to us. When some of the big outfits move in there, they pretty much take the place over and get pretty testy when anyone else shows up just wanting to walk their dog. That isn't going to be tolerated. If they have a trial permit, it still does not allow for exclusive use according to the wording on the permit.

Just some thoughts. You can email me back today with anything further and I should be able to reply during a break in this VERY exciting training.

K

**Sergeant**

**Kim Chandler**

As the agency no doubt observed in the e-mail, Mr. Chandler acknowledges his assertions are "*very difficult to prove...*" which is not at all surprising to me, because (with all due respect) they are largely inaccurate.

Other portions of this DFW staff e-mail are not only inaccurate, but also pretty offensive. I trust those disappointing items are immediately obvious to the Commissioners when reading the e-mail, such that it is not necessary for me to detail those items for you here.

However, I think it's important to begin to set the record straight, especially if the Commission's corrective decisions (or the Director's decisions) regarding the management of Cherry Valley are based, or would be based, on the kinds of inaccurate information in Mr. Chandler's e-mail.

Let's begin with the notion that pro trainers participate in training to sell puppies. The allegation is completely unfounded as regards our club, and generally. In my experience, most trainers don't want to be in the puppy business.

For example: We have three professional trainers who are members of our non-profit, all volunteer, dog training club. In the last 5 years, only one of the three trainers has had a litter of puppies. That trainer had a single litter of puppies in order to perpetuate "the line" of her own aging dog that she hunts with. Then, the dog (that had that single litter of puppies) was spade.

The Snoqualmie River Valley has a long-standing, and storied, international reputation for great hunting dogs that have been trained here. In fact, the only two *UKC/HRC International Grand Champion Hunting Retrievers* in history that were whelped west of the Rocky Mountains are current members of our local club (two female Labrador Retrievers: one black, one yellow).

HRC was created “*by hunters, for hunters*” and both of those International Grand Champions are hunting dogs owned by local “non-pro” families who regularly hunt waterfowl and upland birds here in Washington. Neither dog has ever had a litter, and neither competes in conformation/show events.

*Please Note*: This observation is *not* intended to disparage confirmation dogs whose owners also enjoy training their retrievers for the field, competing in retriever events, and strengthening the breeds of dogs to be proficient at performing the purposes for which they were bred.

It’s also not intended to convey an impression that our club is mostly about Labrador Retrievers. We invite you to come to our events where you’ll likely see not only black, yellow and chocolate Labrador Retrievers, but also Golden Retrievers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Boykin Spaniels, Labradoodles, Irish Water Spaniels, Standard Poodles, Cocker Spaniels, Flat Coated Retrievers, and even an occasional Norwegian Duck Toller. Although only registered dogs are able to earn titles for their pedigree, any dog capable of learning to do the work of a hunting retrieving is welcome to train with us, to compete at our events, and to earn ribbons when they are successful.

**However, the observation above about the International Grand Champions is intended to take serious issue with the statements in the DFW e-mail** that appears to be from staff member Sgt. Kim Chandler to DFW staff member Brian Boehm that, “*very few of them actually are hunters and buy our licenses...I don’t see where we should make a whole lot of effort just to mow for commercial dog training.*”

As you’ll recall from the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph of this email:

*From October to February, our members go hunting. But from February through September we hold monthly training days (and extend invitations to those sessions to approximately 165 families on our distribution list). We also have an additional 300 families (who own retrievers that are trained on a regular basis to be proficient in the field) that we communicate with periodically during the year.*

My wife and I typically hunt waterfowl and upland birds 30 to 40 days per year, and almost all of those days are spent hunting on public lands here in Washington State.

There is very little public land available for the kind of dog training that has historically been welcomed at Cherry Valley. As one of our members recently stated, “*95% of the bird hunting I do is on public land, but I’m not able to do any of my dog training on public land.*”

In fact, JBLM – which requires a very lengthy drive - is the only other public area available that has the acreage and physical characteristics needed for training. But JBLM has no water available most of the year.

So, Cherry Valley is unique in its suitability for several recreational uses: hunting, dog training and wildlife viewing. I am advised that DFW’s enforcement records indicate that conflicts between these users groups are minimal: Not a single such conflict was noted in DFW enforcement records that were requested (via public records request to DFW) for Cherry Valley.

While there are a number of improvements to the Cherry Valley property (and management practices) that should be included in the future 10-year Management Plan for Cherry Valley to accommodate dog training - and we will address those separately in greater detail during the planning process - **there are several actions the Commission should take in the immediate future** (prior to completion of the management planning process) **to restore historical access, and to re-open Cherry Valley to dog training, (and to initiate opportunities for dog training at Stillwater) consistent with the historical uses of the Cherry Valley property previously facilitated by the state**, including the following (each of which is being addressed in greater detail in other materials Commissioners/WDFW have been receiving since 2016 and are continuing to receive):

1. Immediately re-establish the historical dog training area within the boundaries of the Cherry Valley Wildlife Area: At a minimum this accommodation should be consistent with the provisions of the *2006 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Cherry Valley Management Plan* which clearly indicates that Cherry Valley will be available for "Hunting Pheasant and Waterfowl" and "**Recreational and Organized Dog Training and Trials**" (emphasis added).

The 2006 plan notes that hunting and dog trials were the most popular uses of these grounds. In fact, the plan notes that dog training usage at Cherry Valley had increased 27% in recent years leading up to 2006.

2. Unlock the gates during the non-nesting season: Leave both gates unlocked for the entire period when pheasant and waterfowl seasons are closed (traditionally the gates were open other than hunting season). If locked, provide all clubs with the gate code for distribution to members. Do not restrict access with a "call in" system; instead, (if locked) have access available any time with a code-type padlock. Agency promises regarding unlock access have not been kept, and the agency has reneged on its word. Great agencies, like great men, should keep their word.
3. Allow access to the Cherry Valley property from both the north and south roads
4. Allow parking at the interior parking lot adjacent to the water ponds.
5. Mow/remove the canary grass, even if it is necessary to condition the mowing on funding availability from dog training groups. The mowing should be done with input from the various dog training groups (retrievers, pointers, flushers, trackers, etc.) who will help fund the cost of mowing. Ensure the 10-year plan includes replanting canary grass with native grasses.
6. Keep non-native plants from encroaching on the ponds. Keep the trees and shrubs cleared from around the ponds (as was previously done) so that the ponds can be used for water retriever training; and
7. Actively enforce restrictions on pesticides use on the farmed portions of the property.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Sincerely,

*Sam Pace*

Sam Pace, Immediate Past President

[sam@sampace.com](mailto:sam@sampace.com) (253) 630-5541



**Comment 144: from Sam Pace**

TO: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)

In care of [SEPADesk2@DFW.wa.gov](mailto:SEPADesk2@DFW.wa.gov) & [Director@DFW.wa.gov](mailto:Director@DFW.wa.gov)

With a "Courtesy Copy" to the following individuals:

[Leslie.Connelly@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:Leslie.Connelly@ofm.wa.gov), [Jim.Cahill@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:Jim.Cahill@ofm.wa.gov), [Jim.Crawford@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:Jim.Crawford@ofm.wa.gov), [Scott.Merriman@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:Scott.Merriman@ofm.wa.gov), [Roselyn.Marcus@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:Roselyn.Marcus@ofm.wa.gov),  
[Patricia.Lashway@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:Patricia.Lashway@ofm.wa.gov), [Pat.Lashway@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:Pat.Lashway@ofm.wa.gov), [David.Schumacher@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:David.Schumacher@ofm.wa.gov), [Drew.Shirk@gov.wa.gov](mailto:Drew.Shirk@gov.wa.gov), [David.Postman@gov.wa.gov](mailto:David.Postman@gov.wa.gov),  
[Andi.Smith@gov.wa.gov](mailto:Andi.Smith@gov.wa.gov), [Keith.Phillips@gov.wa.gov](mailto:Keith.Phillips@gov.wa.gov)

The "Courtesy" copies are provided in consideration of

(1) Potential adverse political, financial, administrative and policy related impacts both inside and outside DFW which have the potential to affect the work of the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and the Governor's Office (GOV), and

(2) Because the potential adverse impacts could likely be avoided by early action NOW.

FROM: Sam Pace

RE: SEPA # 18016 - Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Management Plan

**A. Introduction**

I am writing to share some personal thoughts and observations in the hope that doing so may be helpful to DFW, OFM and GOV in avoiding a political conflagration (later this year, and early next year) in connection with the Legislature's consideration of DFW's budget.

There is a fast-growing movement of outdoor enthusiasts (specifically Sporting Dog owners who hunt with their dogs, and to a lesser degree equestrians) migrating away from repeated largely unsuccessful efforts to work with DFW on concerns involving management of the Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas.

Those stakeholders (now numbering in the hundreds) are beginning to focus on the Legislature in an experienced and well-organized way that has the potential to create enormous new high-profile political challenges for DFW, especially if literally hundreds of stakeholders show up at the legislature to testify in opposition to DFW's budget in connection with the agency's efforts next session to obtain:

A. Continued funding for the operation of DFW's Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas (386 acres at Cherry Valley, 456 acres at Stillwater, and 360 acres at Crescent Lake), and

B. New sources of revenue the agency has been seeking from the legislature for at least a couple of years now.

In addition, DFW could encounter citizen-action efforts at the Legislature this fall and next session to restrict its use of *Pittman-Robertson* revenues, additional constraints (in the capital budget) on DFW capital construction, and diversion to other agencies (i.e., Parks) of funding historically allocated to DFW.

I previously submitted written comments to DFW on two occasions (in 2016, and again last month in connection with SEPA #18016) on behalf of Whistling Wings Hunting Retriever Club regarding concerns about DFW's management of the Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas. I believe there is significant merit to those concerns. The most recent of those comments are attached below in order to help explain the substance of wide-spread concerns with the agency's management of Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Area assets.

These personal “**additional**” SEPA comments I am submitting are not on behalf of any organizations or persons, but instead are an entirely personal effort on my part to try to minimize the potential for DFW, OFM and GOV to be blindsided at the legislature later this year, and during the 2019 Legislative session(s).

As someone with an affinity for natural resources, earlier in my life I worked on natural resources issues for the Oregon Fish Commission, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and as a licensed and federally-permitted commercial fishing guide.

So, I hope it is understandable that I would prefer that DFW, OFM and GOV not be subjected to an avoidable “Battle-Royale” over DFW’s budget if there is leadership within DFW, OFM or GOV willing to step-in and address meritorious concerns NOW before a fight at the legislature is the only remaining alternative available for the public to obtain redress of grievances.

It may seem somewhat unusual for these kinds of financial/political comments to be included in the above-referenced SEPA process, so please allow me to offer this explanation (which admittedly stretches a bit outside the box):

I’ve chosen to take this opportunity to share these personal “additional” SEPA comments because I believe successful citizen-action efforts at the Legislature to constrain DFW’s funding (in response to significant leadership failures, and citizen disenfranchisement by Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Area DFW staff members) could constrain DFW’s management options in a way that would create a need to modify this and other SEPA analyses for both Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Area lands/waters managed by DFW, and for other assets managed by DFW.

#### **B. Why DFW Funding Is Likely to Be “A Magnet” For Well-Organized Opposition**

##### **At the Legislature if DFW Doesn’t Address Concerns Satisfactorily Before November**

In 2016 DFW began a “planning process” which the local DFW Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas manager appeared intent on using to institutionalize a number of new use restrictions that he had been attempting to impose unilaterally at “Cherry Valley” (386 acres just north of Duvall on the eastside of Highway 203). Those restrictions have the effect of eliminating decades-long historical uses, disenfranchising sporting dog owners, increasing safety hazards, and functionally evicting both disabled dog owners and the Sporting Dog Community’s long-standing use of the property for hunting/tracking dog training, and hunting/tracking dog competitions. The de minimis dog training areas remaining were so incredibly small as to amount to a functional eviction of the historical accommodation of dog training and dog trials.

As part of that planning process, on April 11, 2016, DFW held a meeting at its Mill Creek office to receive public comment regarding management of the Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas. More than 60 Sporting Dog enthusiasts showed-up in order to express their objections to the lack of functional access to, and their functional eviction from, Cherry Valley for hunting dog training, and hunting dog hunt tests/trials.

Individuals also attended the April 11, 2016 meeting to express their disappointment and objections to the fact that DFW’s Snoqualmie Valley manager Brian Boehm had assembled a hand-picked “advisory committee” but replaced individuals on the advisory committee who dared to express pointed concerns or disagreement regarding Boehm’s management of the properties, especially as regards disenfranchisement and functional eviction of the Sporting Dog Community.

The attendees who showed up at the April 11, 2016 meeting are members of numerous local dog clubs in the Central Puget Sound Region that are affiliated with the American Kennel Club (AKC), the United Kennel Club (UKC), North American Hunting Retriever Association (NAHRA), Irish Water Spaniel Club of Puget Sound (IWSCOPS), American Pointing Labrador Association (APLA), Northwest Boykin Spaniel Club (NWBCS), etc.

Even before the April 11, 2016, meeting in the Mill Creek office concluded, DFW immediately recognized the hornets' nest it had created was not going to disappear quickly or quietly without the concerns of attendees being addressed substantively and satisfactorily. So, in June 2016, DFW convened a very small stakeholders' group of approximately a dozen representatives from the Sporting Dog Community to attend a "closed, by invitation only" series of meetings regarding the Sporting Dog Community's concerns.

With the benefit of hindsight, it is now apparent the small group process simply attempted to mollify and wear-out stakeholder participants. Each time the shortcomings in the manager's practices were laid bare by stakeholders, the process returned to the beginning point in what was a seemingly endless circular process that went nowhere.

For example: The DFW local manager attempted to rationalize some administrative decisions by claiming conflicts existed among different groups of users. A public records request process demonstrated the claim to be unfounded. But rather than setting the discredited claim aside and moving forward to address the specific concerns and concrete proposals that had been offered-up in writing by stakeholders, the stakeholder process once again returned to the point of the beginning for another trek around the endless circle.

Another example: When the DFW local manager attempted to rationalize some administrative decisions (that have disenfranchised the Sporting Dog Community) by claiming his decisions were based on, and consistent with, two weekends of on-site surveys of Cherry Valley users, members of these stakeholder group were able to quickly demonstrate the survey methodology was fundamentally and fatally-flawed because it was structured in a way that circumvented the possibility of input from hunting dog owners who hunt waterfowl and upland birds:

- The survey was conducted on weekends during the summer. Those summer weekends are when the hunting dog competitions occur, and the dog owners were at those competitions, not at Cherry Valley. The local manager's selection of the four sampling days worked to completely exclude the interests of the Sporting Dog Community from the survey results.
- Moreover, even though such hunting dog test/trials have historically occurred at Cherry Valley (for literally decades), the local DFW manager unilaterally decided to no longer allow those hunting dog tests/trials to occur on the property, which compounded the exclusion of the opinions of the Sporting Dog Community from the survey results.

But again, rather than engaging on the proposals stakeholders had put forward to restore long-standing historical uses at Cherry Valley, the stakeholder process once again returned to the point of the beginning for another trek around the endless circle.

When DFW continued to fail to engage on proposals the stakeholders had put forward to restore decades-old historical uses at Cherry Valley, the stakeholders' group pressed DFW to quit running in circles and instead bring to the table concrete proposals DFW was willing to pursue to address the concerns of the recently disenfranchised Sporting Dog Community.

On September 15, 2016, DFW did so. But then on December 9<sup>th</sup> DFW did an unexpected reversal of its position and without explanation “took back” their proposals, leaving almost nothing on the table except more circuitous process. Then, at a “short notice” stakeholder meeting three days later (on December 12<sup>th</sup>) DFW did even more “take-backs” above and beyond the items that had been removed from consideration on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Especially disappointing was the fact that stakeholders pointedly requested a substantive explanation for the action, DFW offered no substantive or comprehensible explanation for doing so.

Thereafter, on December 14, 2016, on incredibly short notice, DFW Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas manager Brian Boehm held a meeting of his personally hand-picked “Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Advisory Committee” for the purposes of having them participate in the wildlife area planning process. There was no meeting notice available for the public (regarding the meeting date, time, location or agenda), and members of the Sporting Dog Community (including myself) who sought to obtain timely information to be able to attend the meeting were unable to do so. The working document for the meeting that was later produced by DFW staff gave little attention to dog training, except for two items involving **“manage dog training areas...to minimize impacts”** and potentially **“explore further restricting dogs.”**

On January 24, 2017, more senior managers (including Brian Boehm’s immediate supervisor Russell Link, and DFW North Puget Sound Region 4 Manager Bob Everitt) interceded and met with a small handful of representatives from the Washington Sporting Dog Training Association (WSDTA), without Brian Boehm present.

They were able to reach consensus quickly - that day - on a possible path forward that could include:

At the 386-acre Cherry Valley Property

- • Making 65 of the 386 acres at Cherry Valley available for dog training forthwith, except from approximately September 15<sup>th</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup> (during hunting season).
- • Provide vehicular access to the interior of the property (including vehicular access to ponds and parking)
- • Allow mowing around the edge of the ponds, so long as there was no unpermitted excavating of the ponds
- • The Sporting Dog Community would maintain approximately 50 acres of the property - including mowing as needed - pursuant to a “Volunteers Agreement” form to be developed. (As noted in the attachment to these “additional” comments, the Sporting Dog Community both raised money for mowing, and also brought in equipment and did the mowing, as an off-budget, in-kind, non-profit contribution to DFW.)
- • Provide 24/7 access through an open North Road gate, together with signage indicating the property was closed from dusk to dawn, and
- • Prohibiting Brian Boehm from attempting to restrict access between February 1<sup>st</sup> and September 14<sup>th</sup> (for example, by trying to claim it is not safe to drive on the property).



#### At the 456-acre Stillwater Property

- Add access to not less than 10 additional acres of property at the Stillwater site for dog training (in response to DFW's unmet obligation that accompanied the source of funds for the state's original acquisition of the Stillwater property). In the WDFW's property acquisition documents (obtained via a Public Records Request under RCW 42.56), the wildlife biologist indicated that Stillwater had plenty of land for pointing dog trials. So, one of the questions not resolved at this particular meeting was, "Why limit dog training to just 10 acres?"
- DFW indicated that it would add a bullet point (specific wording not yet completed) that would give the Sporting Dog Community the possibility of doing hunt tests/field trials etc. on the Stillwater property.
- DFW cautioned that in order for the Sporting Dog Community to be able to make use of the Stillwater site as WSDTA desired, dog training volunteers may have to be the ones mowing and clearing because DFW was having problems getting sharecroppers to take-on some of the DFW's projects. WSDTA advised DFW that the organization is still growing rather quickly and that WSDTA could begin additional fund raising soon, in which case WSDTA may be able to take care of both mowing at Cherry Valley, and some of the mowing at Stillwater.

#### At the 360-acre Crescent Lake Property

- At this meeting, DFW and WSDTA did not address specifics regarding the items involving Crescent Lake.

#### Additional Items of Concern for DFW

- *Bird/Hunting Dogs vs. Sporting Dogs*: DFW wants to ensure that "sporting dogs" (for purposes of allowing dog training and hunt tests/trials on Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Area properties) is limited to dogs with a hunting focus. DFW wanted to be clear that the goal of the use/agreement will not be expanded to include broader non-hunting-related dog training categories, such as "agility, etc."
- "Tracking" dogs: DFW indicated that if WSDTA wants to train dogs to "track" a scent on the property that would be fine, but at this time they will not allow tracking tests.

DFW and WSDTA began moving forward to implement the agreement, including WSDTA undertaking to mow Cherry Valley as an in-kind, non-profit, contribution to DFW, and to clear access to the ponds: The Sporting Dog Community raised the funding necessary to mow the property, secured mowing equipment and volunteers, volunteers went through agency-approved training, and got the property mowed. And for a time, there was some improvement in access to the property.

But that too fell apart. When personnel changes in DFW occurred, the local manager of the Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas seized upon those personnel changes as an excuse to disavow the agency's commitments to work collaboratively with the Sporting Dog Community, claim those changes were only for 2017, and announced he would return to managing Cherry Valley consistent with what many stakeholders perceive to be his personal peccadilloes.

Subsequently, on April 24, 2018, DFW held a second meeting at its Mill Creek office to take additional public comment, this time in connection with SEPA review required as part of the agency's planning process for the Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas managed by DFW.

Having seen the agency try to lead the stakeholder group around in circles beginning in June 2016, and the refusal of the local DFW Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Area office staff to carry-through on the commitments of more senior agency managers, more than 100 Sporting Dog enthusiasts endured peak-rush-hour traffic through Seattle to show up at the meeting on April 24 at DFW's Mill Creek office to register their objections. To put the attendance at the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting in context, the number of people from the Sporting Dog Community showing up to express their opposition increased by 66% for this second meeting at the Mill Creek office. (60+ on 4/11/2016, then 100+ on 4/24/2018 = 66% increase.)

The new managers in DFW's North Puget Sound Region 4 appear to be sympathetic to the legitimate concerns of the Sporting Dog Community. Accordingly, they might be tempted to believe that it will be sufficient to merely work to address the Sporting Dog Community's concerns in the ongoing 10-year planning process. They might even be tempted to assume that because they are new players who have not personally broken faith, that they have a fresh start. From what I know, I believe that would be a serious misreading of the tea leaves.

The reason I believe that to be the case is that DFW's local manager of the Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas has torched whatever equity had been created when more senior managers had stepped-in to try to work in good faith with the representatives from the Sporting Dog Community whose members had been endeavoring to work cooperatively and collaboratively with the agency for more than a year.

So now, with DFW continuing to allow its local Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas manager to...

- Effectively repudiate the agreement and progress that had been made, and
- Once again act unilaterally to functionally evict the Sporting Dog Community from Cherry Valley, and
- Once again fail to address the legitimate concerns of the well-organized Sporting Dog Community...

...hundreds of stakeholders in the Sporting Dog Community appear to be concluding very quickly that their best option is a well-organized, concerted, citizen-action ground game at the Legislature to go after DFW's financial jugular in a way that will produce a political reckoning unlike anything DFW has experienced in decades.

Otherwise, they face the possibility of being frozen-out of dog training opportunities for the next decade by the local DFW manager mis-using the planning process to disenfranchise and functionally evict them from the Snoqualmie Valley.

I believe a firestorm at the Legislature can be avoided, but it will take senior leadership from DFW, OFM and GOV to:

- Make and keep firm substantive commitments on behalf of DFW and GOV to approve and immediately restore decades-old historical use of Cherry Valley, and
- Do so before November, and
- Provide iron-clad (preferably actionable) assurances that the shenanigans emanating from local staffers in DFW's Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Area office cannot, and will not, be repeated.

I believe two other important observations are worth adding here:

**(1) In envisioning the possibilities for successfully avoiding a firestorm engulfing DFW's budget (in a way that prevents the "forum" in which these conflicts will be resolved from migrating out of DFW and over to the Legislature) I believe it's worth remembering that a whole lot of progress was made between DFW and WSDTA in a single day on these very issues. Reasonable people of good faith have demonstrated they can work together and are willing to do so, even though restoring trust may be a bit of a challenge for DFW because the agency continues to allow its local Snoqualmie Valley office manager to unilaterally eviscerate the commitments made "more-senior" managers in Region 4 of DFW.**

(2) It occurs to me that leadership in OFM and GOV may be wondering *"Even if folks are upset, what is the substantial aggravating factor that would be sufficient to motivate literally hundreds of members of the Sporting Dog Community to venomously target DFW's budget at the legislature with well-organized citizen-action?"*

Candidly, there is enormous deep-seeded disrespect of the Sporting Dog Community in the Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas office. Members of the Sporting Dog Community believe such animosity is verified and reflected in the following e-mail exchange between the DFW Snoqualmie Valley enforcement officer (Sgt. Kim Chandler) and the DFW Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas manager (Brian Boehm):

From: Chandler, Kim (DFW)

Sent: Monday, June 03, 2013 12:26 PM

To: Boehm, Brian (DFW)

Cc: Link, Russell E (DFW)

Brian,

Yeah, just too many things going on last week and I'm in Oly this week for training. Anyway, once again, I'm not real excited about dog training on our lands anyway. What's in it for us? We don't get much of the Discover Pass \$\$ and very few of them actually are hunters and buy our licenses. If we are going to allow it, it needs to be understood that it's only on the designated, signed area of Cherry Valley. One thing that may discourage them is the fact that the place isn't mowed and the grass gets pretty high. I don't see where we should make a whole lot of effort to mow just for commercial dog training. Commercial training also raises some concerns. These guys make a lot of \$\$ from winning hunt tests and field trials and many times are actually out there on the property with a customer who is interested in buying one of their dogs. Very difficult to prove but something that all of them should be made aware off. They need a commercial use permit from us to do anything of that sort. One guy just out tossing a dummy for his daughter from time to time, although technically training, probably isn't of much concern to us. When some of the big outfits move in there, they pretty much take the place over and get pretty testy when anyone else shows up just wanting to walk their dog. That isn't going to be tolerated. If they have a trial permit, it still does not allow for exclusive use according to the wording on the permit.

Just some thoughts. You can email me back today with anything further and I should be able to reply during a break in this VERY exciting training.

K

Sergeant

*Kim Chandler*

As OFM and GOV will no doubt observe, Kim Chandler acknowledges his assertions are *"very difficult to prove..."* which is not at all surprising to me, because (with all due respect) they are largely inaccurate.

Other portions of this DFW staff e-mail are not only inaccurate, but also pretty offensive. I trust those disappointing items are immediately obvious to OFM and GOV such that it is not necessary for me to detail those items for you here. Even so, if necessary to do so, members of the Sporting Dog Community are prepared to detail them for legislators in every hearing on DFW's budget.

The email has been widely-circulated among hundreds of members of the Sporting Dog Community.

Since at least May 2016, DFW's Commissioners and the top managers (at the time) have been aware of the contents of the email. Rather than being willing to discuss the email publicly, the regional manager responded in writing (on behalf of the then-Director) that they did not believe it would be "beneficial." To be fair to the Acting Director, I'm not aware that any such comments have been made by Joe Stohr.

It's not difficult to imagine that some legislators might have some pointed questions about the email if DFW's budget becomes the subject of highly-politicized hearings leading up to, and during, the 2019 session. It is my understanding that there were meetings last month with at least three well-placed legislators, although that information is second-hand because I was not personally present at those meetings.

**C. When and How Might a Well-Organized Citizen-Action Ground Game at the Legislature Unfold if DFW, OFM and GOV Fail to Take Advantage of the Existing Opportunity To Formally Remedy the Situation Prior to November?**

During the current legislative interim - most likely in November and December after the General Election - the Legislature will likely begin considering a two-year budget for each state agency.

Legislators could begin that process by holding "work sessions" on individual agency budgets. Those work sessions will be open to the public, and if past-practice is any guide will likely include opportunities for legislators to hear from the public by taking public testimony.

I anticipate that in addition to renewal of historical funding, WDFW may once again seek approval of one or more new revenue sources that the legislature has declined to approve in prior sessions.

In the past, the early hearing on the WDFW budget usually hasn't taken more than an hour or so. In 2017, DFW was largely able to "fly under the public's radar" in connection with its budget.

But the 2019 session could be more difficult for the agency for four reasons:

1. There is considerable angst among voting taxpayers about "more money for government" at any level - especially in connection with recent property tax hikes approved by legislators in 2017 to fund McCleary, and recent action by the Seattle City Council on an unrelated head tax and unlawful income tax. There may be an effort to deflect some of the outcry regarding property taxes by considering other replacement taxes, such as new tax on energy and a capital gains tax. It does not appear there are sufficient votes in the Senate Democratic Caucus to pass a capital gains tax next session.

WDFW could have trouble getting new revenue sources approved in that kind of a tax-hostile environment.



2. Much more directly relevant to WDFW is the leadership crisis (and recent scandals) that has plagued the Department. The Governor may be lucky to find anybody possessing the chops for the Director's job who is willing to take it. Hopefully Joe Stohr would be open to the possibility, but it is not difficult to imagine that adding new volatility to the Department's finances might be a source of reservations for any potential candidate.

3. A significant contingent of salmon anglers remains more than disappointed in connection with last year's lack of a timely salmon season, especially since native fishers began fishing before there was a commitment to a season for Washington's sport anglers. It remains to be seen whether or not those frustrated anglers will target DFW's budget during the 2019 session; but if the agency's budget becomes controversial for other reasons, some anglers may view the development as creating a new target of opportunity.

4. All of those challenges to the agency getting a budget approved ARE BEFORE Sporting Dog owners enter the fray. **Ideally, it should not be necessary for them to do so.**

**But if Sporting Dog Owners have no other effective option, NO ONE should be surprised to see them move to a new forum by making a concerted effort to reach out directly to legislators in a way that is intended to put the agency's ENTIRE BUDGET through the political and budgetary wringer, not just the appropriations for the Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas, and not just new revenue sources.**

The organize Sporting Dog Community has a demonstrated history of possessing considerable political chops:

- When King County considered using zoning to restrict Sporting Dog training in the Snoqualmie Valley some years ago, County Councilmembers quashed the idea immediately after receiving hundreds of phone calls in less than 2-hours.
- The owners of these Sporting Dogs compete in AKC and UKC competitions, and success in those competitions is reflected on each dog's formal registration papers/pedigree.

In addition to competing in national and international events, these sporting dogs are used as conservation tools for hunting ducks, geese, pheasants, quail, chucker, grouse, etc.

That said, sporting dog owners know that they are also an "upstream source" of dog pedigrees, dog training and dog trainers relied upon by United States Customs, the Department of Defense, ATF, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, etc. for activities that span everything from drug dogs, to bomb dogs, to IED dogs, to the dogs that recently sniffed out illegal ivory imports. In fact, some of the handlers of those dogs, and the dogs themselves, are introduced to the basics at our club training days for retrievers. Not surprisingly then, sporting dog owners also have a wide variety of relationships with federal agencies, federal officials and members of Congress.

- For purposes that are relevant here, the demographic characteristics of the owners of these dogs tend to be typified by the following:
  - o These dog owners possess Discretionary Income

- o These dog owners possess a measure of Discretionary Time

- Many of these dog owners have personal relationships with elected decision-makers at every level of federal, state and local government, which is why candidates for office often "seek them out" when running for office, and
  - A considerable number of these dog owners do not have children. They are euphemistically referred to as "Pet Parents." If someone starts messing with their pets, it's a bit like the person is messing with their children, which helps to explain why in such situations these dog owners combine their access to discretionary time, their discretionary income, their disquiet at being disrespected, and their political contacts, to vindicate their family members.
- 
- Sporting Dog owners have demonstrated they can and will engage, especially on issues that affect them directly, personally and negatively...as this issue does. That's reflected in the following:
    - When the DFW small group stakeholder process began to go in circles with no real hope of the agency stepping forward to substantively address their concerns, they organized a new formal statewide **Washington Sporting Dog Training Association (WSDTA)** that has now brought together the various sporting dog clubs across the state to present a united front to DFW, legislators and the public.
    - The first time they had the opportunity to engage with DFW on this specific issue was on short notice in 2016 when 60+ of them drove to Mill Creek to meet with the agency to express their concerns regarding the mismanagement of Cherry Valley (the DFW site located just north of Duvall on Hwy 203) ...and that was before they got really ticked-off because of actions taken by DFW's Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Area local manager subsequent to that 2016 meeting held in Mill Creek.
    - That's why more than 100 people showed up for the meeting at the WDFW Mill Creek office on April 24, 2018, which was a 66% increase over the number that showed up at the prior meeting in Mill Creek.
    - They are tenacious, and they are not going away.
    - If you obtain and look through the written comments that were submitted to DFW in 2016 and 2018, you will see that the great bulk of work to prepare for the 2019 legislative session and budget hearings has already been done by the Sporting Dog Community. It's "in the can" and ready to go.

So, imagine twice that many people (200+) showing up to testify at the Legislature's work session on the WDFW budget in November/December 2018, and that the number grows to something closer to 500 activists once the Legislature convenes in January.

Why do I believe the organized Sporting Dog Community is likely to do that if things don't change before November? Four reasons (actually, five reasons if you include the content of that email between DFW staffers Chandler and Boehm):

1. They have experienced extreme frustration at having no real ability to directly affect the decisions of a very small handful of agency personnel who have chosen to disenfranchise them

2. They understand that members of the public have direct access to legislators who control the agency's budget
3. They know legislators (and legislative candidates) who are campaigning right now to be elected in November are willing to take as much time as needed to listen whenever large well-organized, politically-active voters want to talk to them, and
4. Compared to asking legislators to solve property tax rage, homelessness, and transportation congestion, the Sporting Dog owners know they would be asking for something simple: Get tough with an agency that has not only harmed them directly, but also been a bit of an ineffective embarrassment to legislators on both sides of the aisle, and both sides of the "Cascade Curtain."

Making a promise to take-on DFW for failing to reign-in rogue operators is an easy promise for a legislator to make. And, it will be a promise that legislators would likely decide to keep if hundreds of Sporting Dog owners show up to testify against DFW's budget during the 2019 session.

Putting 500 dog owners in the hearing room in Olympia for a legislative hearing on the WDFW budget would be achievable with a modicum of effort, especially given the broad-based circulation of the staff email. Ugly, loud, pointed, messy and with long-lasting impact. But definitely doable.

If the Cherry Valley shenanigans are not definitively resolved this summer, come this fall it won't be just "new revenue sources" that could be in jeopardy, there could also be an all-out frontal assault at the Legislature on the agency's entire budget.

I don't have a crystal ball that allows me to know what an "ask" of legislators might be at a hearing on the DFW budget, but it doesn't take a lot of imagination to envision what some of the low-hanging fruit might be for agency opponents seeking to send a "*Never to Be Forgotten*" message to the agency:

- • Include a proviso in the 2019-2021 budget that reduces the Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Area local manager staffing from 1.0 FTE down to 0.4 FTEs (a reduction of 0.6 FTEs), and
- • Include a proviso in the 2019-2021 budget that reduces the Region 4 enforcement sergeant position serving the Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Area from 1.0 FTEs down to 0.25 FTEs (a reduction of 0.75 FTEs) and increase non-supervisory enforcement staffing in Region 4 by the amount saved from reducing that specific sergeant position to 0.25 FTEs.
- • Authorize no new revenue sources for WDFW for the 2019-2021 biennial budget cycle
- • Allow no increases in the price of licenses or tags, especially in the wake of large increases previously approved
- • Shift to Parks: ○ All Discover Pass revenues that would normally/traditionally have been allocated/appropriated to DFW in the 2019-21 budget cycle, and
- ○ All boat launch-related revenues/fees that normally/traditionally would have been allocated/appropriated to DFW in the 2019-2021 budget cycle
- 
- • Require that all *Pittman-Robertson* revenues be held in a non-appropriated restricted reserve account until the later of: ○ Appropriation of the 2021/2023 budget, or
-

○ The Legislature’s approval of a formal budget proviso declaring the agency has cleaned up the management mess in the Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas.

- • Include such items in a subsection of the budget that contains other “must-have” items (in order to minimize the potential for a GOV line-item veto).

**D. Leadership Capable of Making Binding Substantive Commitments NOW Could Solve/Prevent This**

If the disenfranchised Sporting Dog owners take their fight to Olympia, things will likely get a whole lot more difficult and messy for WDFW.

Fortunately for DFW, OFM and GOV, the Sporting Dog Community is well-organized under the umbrella of the **Washington Sporting Dog Training Association (WSDTA)**, thereby giving OFM and GOV an entity to work with. Even though the local manager of the Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas appears intent upon attempting to unwind the progress that was made when more senior DFW managers stepped into the small stakeholders group process and took reasonable positions, I believe the fact that such (now largely eviscerated) progress was achieved is a clear indication that:

- • WSDTA is an entity that OFM and GOV (and perhaps DFW) senior managers can work with, productively and efficiently, and
  - • There is a significant likelihood of being able to reach a substantive firm agreement this summer as long as:
    - Stakeholders in the Sporting Dog Community do not ask for more than simply ✦ (a) reinstatement of pre-2012 historical uses of 386 acres at Cherry Valley, 456 acres at Stillwater, and 360 acres at Crescent Lake
    - ✦ (b) physical access to the properties consistent with decades-long prior practice, and
    - ✦ (c) on-site property conditions – such as mowed fields and mowed access to ponds, recognizing as indicated below that this may necessitate WSDTA agreeing to do some mowing
  - ○ Stakeholders continue to offer financial and in-kind support at historical levels to assist with mowing Cherry Valley (in order to minimize mowing costs for the Department), and
  - ○ Stakeholders have actionable assurances that eliminate concerns the current local manager will be allowed to ignore or interpret the plain language of the decisions and commitments of more senior decision-makers in DFW, GOV and OFM regarding the management of Cherry Valley and other Snoqualmie Valley DFW assets.
  -

...all of which DFW and GOV ought to be able to commit to NOW, and (because it represents a return to the status quo) also fully including in the DFW 10-year plan that is the subject of this pending SEPA process), and

**The WSDTA point of contact is Cindy Olson. Cindy’s e-mail is: [cindyto@q.com](mailto:cindyto@q.com).**



I am persuaded that **RIGHT NOW** is an opportune time for the **OFM, GOV** and **DFW agency leaders** to maintain control of DFW's destiny and funding by dealing decisively with a couple of agency rogue operators in the Snoqualmie Valley who are not only setting the stage for a very contentious fight in the legislature over funding for the Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas, but also are placing a gigantic target on the entire agency budget. The agency will go into this next budget cycle with leadership issues, a tarnished reputation, and an unfavorable political climate with regard to new taxes and fees, even with the legislative and executive branches under Democratic control. Those challenges are plenty large without adding unnecessary and avoidable burdens to the lift, including a conflagration that encompasses the agency's budget. Legislators may also be unimpressed if DFW, OFM and GOV ignore or squander the opportunity available right now to avoid an unnecessary fight over DFW's budget later this fall and during the 2019 session. There is an additional reason to act NOW, which has the potential to impact the future leadership of the agency: Everyone knows it's not a lot of fun to be the superintendent of a school district that has trouble passing its levy. For similar reasons, folks with chops to be DFW Director might not be excited about leading an agency whose financial jugular is exposed to passionate opposition from agency stakeholders. My hope is that sharing my personal thoughts directly and pointedly NOW gives the agency, OFM and GOV notice of the opportunity to manage human and capital resources in a way that could avoid a fiscal and political conflagration this winter, and beyond. Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. I hope they will be helpful by giving you an early heads-up to a potential - and increasingly likely - messy situation that in my view can, and should be, avoided by addressing it Now!

Sincerely,

*Sam Pace*

Sam@SamPace.com  
253-569-2663

**EARLIER "INITIAL" SEPA COMMENTS REFERENCED ABOVE**

**Whistling Wings**

**Hunting Retriever Club**

Affiliated with the United Kennel Club,  
America's Oldest Major Dog Registry

**PAGE:** 1/5

**DATE:** April 25, 2018

**TO:** WDFW

**DELIVERY:** Email to - SEPADesk2@DFW.wa.gov

**FROM:** Sam Pace, Immediate Past President [Sam@SamPace.com](mailto:Sam@SamPace.com)

Whistling Wings HRC (253) 630-5541

29839 154<sup>th</sup> Ave SE

Kent, WA 98042-4557

**RE: SEPA COMMENTS RE: Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Areas, including but not limited to Restoration of Historical Dog Training Uses at Cherry Valley Wildlife Area**

Dear WDFW:

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Immediate Past President of Whistling Wings Hunting Retriever Club (WWHRC) to request the Department in its 10-year plan direct the Cherry Valley site in the Snoqualmie Valley be reopened to dog training in a manner consistent with the historical use of the property that has been allowed for most of the time since the property was acquired in the mid-1970s.

Whistling Wings HRC is a welcoming, non-profit, all volunteer club helping owners develop their family dogs into well-trained retrievers for hunting, home and retrieving field competitions. Whistling Wings HRC is affiliated with the Hunting Retriever Club (HRC) program of the United Kennel Club (UKC).

Whistling Wings HRC is also the oldest, and largest, HRC club west of the Rocky Mountains. Our club was founded in the Snoqualmie Valley, and held its very first competition at Cherry Valley after the property was purchased by the State of Washington.

From October to February, our members go bird hunting. But from February through September we hold monthly training days (and extend invitations to those sessions to approximately 165 families on our distribution list). We also have an additional 300 families (who own retrievers that are trained on a regular basis to be proficient in the field) that we communicate with periodically during the year.

In addition, we typically hold twice-yearly retriever competitions in the Snoqualmie River Valley, and regularly draw dogs and handlers from British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California and Montana. Last summer we also drew entries from as far away as Alaska and Texas. Those events not only meet the needs of dog owners, they pump tourist dollars (meals, motels, gas, etc.) into the local economies of Duvall, Carnation, Fall City, Issaquah, Snoqualmie, North Bend, Redmond and Monroe.

Whistling Wings got its start at Cherry Valley, and our members and our Board have repeatedly expressed strong interest in using the Cherry Valley site for hunting retriever training as they were previously able, and allowed, to do.

**However, in recent years, we have been functionally evicted from being able to use the property for retriever training, and hunting retriever events, due to local WDFW restrictive management practices that:**

- 1. Are inconsistent with the historic uses of the property (since it was acquired by the State) that included dog training, which along with hunting was one of the most popular public uses of the property.**
- 2. Constrain the portion of the property available for hunting retriever training to approximately 20 acres, which is far less acreage than is required for the activity, and far less acreage than was previously available for dog training.**

**Additionally, the opportunity to train dogs to retrieve waterfowl dispatched on water has been eliminated. We hunt ducks and geese over water, and dogs need to know how to work in both swimming water and running water. Originally, we had access to water on the Cherry Valley property for purposes of dog training, but now there is only access to about 20 acres of land, which is totally inadequate for field dog training and/or field events.**

- 3. Refused to mow the property. Refusing to mow is not only inconsistent with DFW's past practice, local DFW staff has expressly acknowledged that refusing to mow renders the property unusable for dog training (see the e-mail on page 3 of these comments regarding not mowing to "discourage them" from dog training).**

**This practice of not mowing has continued even when money has been raised by the dog training community to cover the cost: When "cost" was offered as a rationalization for not mowing, the dog training community raised \$2,000 in about 24 hours. Mowing – paid for with portions of those funds - was only allowed once, and even though funding remains available to cover the cost, mowing has not been allowed since then. In 2017 members of the sporting dog community mowed the property at their own expense, but the local manager has failed to follow up to ensure the mowing continues, even on a volunteer basis and no marginal expense to the Department.**

- 4. Confined limited parking so close to the state highway that egress/ingress results in serious (but artificially DFWF-created) safety issues for vehicles entering the parking lot, vehicles leaving the parking lot, and for dogs being loaded on-to and off-of vehicles in the parking lot.**
- 5. Eliminated our access to safer parking areas closer to the center of the property (adjacent to the seasonal water ponds).**
- 6. Effectively deprive less physically capable individuals (and especially the disabled, and too many of our seniors) from being able to make safe use of the property for retriever training as they previously could do.**

To the extent any of the recently implemented local WDFW restrictive management practices that have functionally evicted dog training from the Cherry Valley site are based on the substance of the following e-mail (or to the extent they are based on *local management sentiments* within WDFW that are consistent with the following e-mail) I think it is important that the substance of this agency e-mail be

addressed directly. The department has refused to do so since at least 2016. The e-mail I'm referencing states:

**From: Chandler, Kim (DFW)**

**Sent: Monday, June 03, 2013 12:26 PM**

**To: Boehm, Brian (DFW)**

**Cc: Link, Russell E (DFW)**

**Brian,**

**Yeah, just too many things going on last week and I'm in Oly this week for training. Anyway, once again, I'm not real excited about dog training on our lands anyway. What's in it for us? We don't get much of the Discover Pass \$\$ and very few of them actually are hunters and buy our licenses. If we are going to allow it, it needs to be understood that it's only on the designated, signed area of Cherry Valley. One thing that may discourage them is the fact that the place isn't mowed and the grass gets pretty high. I don't see where we should make a whole lot of effort to mow just for commercial dog training. Commercial training also raises some concerns. These guys make a lot of \$\$ from winning hunt tests and field trials and many times are actually out there on the property with a customer who is interested in buying one of their dogs. Very difficult to prove but something that all of them should be made aware off. They need a commercial use permit from us to do anything of that sort. One guy just out tossing a dummy for his daughter from time to time, although technically training, probably isn't of much concern to us. When some of the big outfits move in there, they pretty much take the place over and get pretty testy when anyone else shows up just wanting to walk their dog. That isn't going to be tolerated. If they have a trial permit, it still does not allow for exclusive use according to the wording on the permit.**

**Just some thoughts. You can email me back today with anything further and I should be able to reply during a break in this VERY exciting training.**

**K**

Sergeant

*Kim Chandler*

As the agency no doubt observed in the e-mail, Mr. Chandler acknowledges his assertions are "very difficult to prove..." which is not at all surprising to me, because (with all due respect) they are largely inaccurate.

Other portions of this DFW staff e-mail are not only inaccurate, but also pretty offensive. I trust those disappointing items are immediately obvious to the Commissioners when reading the e-mail, such that it is not necessary for me to detail those items for you here.

However, I think it's important to begin to set the record straight, especially if the Commission's corrective decisions (or the Director's decisions) regarding the management of Cherry Valley are based, or would be based, on the kinds of inaccurate information in Mr. Chandler's e-mail.

Let's begin with the notion that pro trainers participate in training to sell puppies. The allegation is completely unfounded as regards our club, and generally. In my experience, most trainers don't want to be in the puppy business.

For example: We have three professional trainers who are members of our non-profit, all volunteer, dog training club. In the last 5 years, only one of the three trainers has had a litter of puppies. That trainer had a single litter of puppies in order to perpetuate “the line” of her own aging dog that she hunts with. Then, the dog (that had that single litter of puppies) was spade.

The Snoqualmie River Valley has a long-standing, and storied, international reputation for great hunting dogs that have been trained here. In fact, the only two *UKC/HRC International Grand Champion Hunting Retrievers* in history that were whelped west of the Rocky Mountains are current members of our local club (two female Labrador Retrievers: one black, one yellow).

HRC was created “*by hunters, for hunters*” and both of those International Grand Champions are hunting dogs owned by local “non-pro” families who regularly hunt waterfowl and upland birds here in Washington. Neither dog has ever had a litter, and neither competes in conformation/show events.

*Please Note:* This observation is *not* intended to disparage confirmation dogs whose owners also enjoy training their retrievers for the field, competing in retriever events, and strengthening the breeds of dogs to be proficient at performing the purposes for which they were bred.

It’s also not intended to convey an impression that our club is mostly about Labrador Retrievers. We invite you to come to our events where you’ll likely see not only black, yellow and chocolate Labrador Retrievers, but also Golden Retrievers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Boykin Spaniels, Labradoodles, Irish Water Spaniels, Standard Poodles, Cocker Spaniels, Flat Coated Retrievers, and even an occasional Norwegian Duck Toller. Although only registered dogs are able to earn titles for their pedigree, any dog capable of learning to do the work of a hunting retrieving is welcome to train with us, to compete at our events, and to earn ribbons when they are successful.

**However, the observation above about the International Grand Champions is intended to take serious issue with the statements in the DFW e-mail** that appears to be from staff member Sgt. Kim Chandler to DFW staff member Brian Boehm that, “*very few of them actually are hunters and buy our licenses...I don’t see where we should make a whole lot of effort just to mow for commercial dog training.*”

As you’ll recall from the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph on page 1 of this letter:

*From October to February, our members go hunting. But from February through September we hold monthly training days (and extend invitations to those sessions to approximately 165 families on our distribution list). We also have an additional 300 families (who own retrievers that are trained on a regular basis to be proficient in the field) that we communicate with periodically during the year.*

My wife and I typically hunt waterfowl and upland birds 30 to 40 days per year, and almost all of those days are spent hunting on public lands here in Washington State.

There is very little public land available for the kind of dog training that has historically been welcomed at Cherry Valley. As one of our members recently stated, “*95% of the bird hunting I do is on public land, but I’m not able to do any of my dog training on public land.*”

In fact, JBLM – which requires a very lengthy drive - is the only other public area available that has the acreage and physical characteristics needed for training. But JBLM has no water available most of the year.

So, Cherry Valley is unique in its suitability for several recreational uses: hunting, dog training and wildlife viewing. I am advised that DFW’s enforcement records indicate that conflicts between these



users groups are minimal: Not a single such conflict was noted in DFW enforcement records that were requested (via public records request to DFW) for Cherry Valley.

While there are a number of improvements to the Cherry Valley property (and management practices) that should be included in the future 10-year Management Plan for Cherry Valley to accommodate dog training - and we will address those separately in greater detail during the planning process - **there are several actions the Commission should take in the immediate future** (prior to completion of the management planning process) **to restore historical access, and to re-open Cherry Valley to dog training, (and to initiate opportunities for dog training at Stillwater) consistent with the historical uses of the Cherry Valley property previously facilitated by the state**, including the following (each of which is being addressed in greater detail in other materials Commissioners/WDFW have been receiving since 2016 and are continuing to receive):

1. Immediately re-establish the historical dog training area within the boundaries of the Cherry Valley Wildlife Area: At a minimum this accommodation should be consistent with the provisions of the *2006 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Cherry Valley Management Plan* which clearly indicates that Cherry Valley will be available for "Hunting Pheasant and Waterfowl" and "**Recreational and Organized Dog Training and Trials**" (emphasis added).

The 2006 plan notes that hunting and dog trials were the most popular uses of these grounds. In fact, the plan notes that dog training usage at Cherry Valley had increased 27% in recent years leading up to 2006.

2. Unlock the gates during the non-nesting season: Leave both gates unlocked for the entire period when pheasant and waterfowl seasons are closed (traditionally the gates were open other than hunting season). If locked, provide all clubs with the gate code for distribution to members. Do not restrict access with a "call in" system; instead, (if locked) have access available any time with a code-type padlock. Agency promises regarding unlock access have not been kept, and the agency has reneged on its word. Great agencies, like great men, should keep their word.

3. Allow access to the Cherry Valley property from both the north and south roads

4. Allow parking at the interior parking lot adjacent to the water ponds.

5. Mow/remove the canary grass, even if it is necessary to condition the mowing on funding availability from dog training groups. The mowing should be done with input from the various dog training groups (retrievers, pointers, flushers, trackers, etc.) who will help fund the cost of mowing. Ensure the 10-year plan includes replanting canary grass with native grasses.

6. Keep non-native plants from encroaching on the ponds. Keep the trees and shrubs cleared from around the ponds (as was previously done) so that the ponds can be used for water retriever training; and

7. Actively enforce restrictions on pesticides use on the farmed portions of the property.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Sincerely,

*Sam Pace*

Sam Pace, Immediate Past President

[sam@sampace.com](mailto:sam@sampace.com)

(253) 630-5541

**Comment 145: from Sam Pace**

Greetings,

The Sporting Dog Community in the Central Puget Sound Region consists primarily of local non-profit dog clubs affiliated with the American Kennel Club [AKC] and United Kennel Club [UKC].

They have been working with WDFW since April 2016 - without success - to restore the decades-old dog training opportunities in the Snoqualmie Valley that were recently and unilaterally eviscerated by a small contingent of WDFW employees in the agency's Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Area office.

As a result, WDFW is now facing the very real prospect that if the Sporting Dog Community's concerns are not resolved before November, they will elect to change the "Forum" for addressing their dissatisfaction as stakeholders: They will likely move from trying to work with WDFW, to going after WDFW's 2019-2021 budget in the Legislature.

The purpose and objective in "Changing "Forums" would be to mount a well-organized, experienced and aggressive citizen-action campaign against WDFW's 2019-2021 budget later this year during preliminary budget hearings, and continuing that effort throughout the 2019 legislative session(s).

As someone with a great affinity for natural resources who has worked for the Oregon Fish Commission, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Marine Fisheries Service (as well as owning a commercially licensed and federally permitted recreational fishing and whitewater rafting guide company) earlier in my life, I would hate to see that happen.

But I understand the Sporting Dog Community's concerns are real, and have merit.

As a result, I am submitting the attached "additional" SEPA comments (in connection with DFW SEPA #18016) for two reasons:

1. A reduction in DFW funding in the agency's 2019-2021 budget would limit the agency's management options, and that in turn could affect operations and capital projects in ways that would be of consequence and importance in connection with this and other DFW SEPA analyses, and
2. More importantly, I believe these concerns can be resolved before November in a way that will largely eliminate unnecessarily exposing DFW's financial jugular during the Legislature's 2019 budgeting activities.. For reasons explained in the attached (very detailed) comments, that will likely require intervention by top managers at DFW, OFM and/or GOV.

I submitted earlier comments on behalf of Whistling Wings HRC, a nonprofit local dog club affiliated with the international nonprofit Hunting Retriever Program of the United Kennel Club. These "additional" comments are my own "personal" comments and are not offered on behalf of any organization, or on behalf of any other person.

The attached comments are very detailed for a reason - information is power. I believe you have in these comments the information that can help to empower senior managers to neutralize and resolve this situation quickly, efficiently, and with finality.

That was almost achieved once last year, but when senior personnel changes occurred recently in DFW's Region 4, the DFW local Snoqualmie Valley manager seized upon those changes as an opportunity to repudiate the commitments and progress made by more senior personnel, claiming the changes were for 2017 only.

In the time this situation has been festering, the number of members of the organized Sporting Dog Community showing up at DFW "stakeholder" meetings to object to what has been happening has increased by 66% - and at the

last meeting more than 100 members of the public drove through peak-rush-hour Seattle traffic to get to Mill Creek by 600 PM in order to register their objections.

In addition, largely in response to the frustrations with the manager of DFW's Snoqualmie Valley office, hunting dog owners formed a new statewide organization to present a united front to the Legislature and the public: The ***Washington Sporting Dog Training Association (WSDTA)***.

Literally 200+ people seeking to testify later this year in opposition to the DFW budget, and more than twice that many during the 2019 session, is a very real possibility, in part because of incredibly offensive and widely-distributed emails between staff members in the Snoqualmie Valley office (obtained via a Public Records Request).

That communication between staff members - now publicly disclosed - has enraged an already passionate group of dog owners who have a demonstrated history of political engagement, and unwavering tenacity when rogue operators start messing with their dogs.

This could get very ugly, very fast. It doesn't need to.

There is a clear path forward that was acceptable to both DFW senior managers and dog owners.

I've included those specifics in these comments.

In these comments I've tried to share everything I know - including the specifics of what everyone (except the most junior involved employee at DFW) was willing to agree to - in the hope that you will be as eager as I am to avoid a conflagration consuming DFW's efforts to get a 2019-2021 budget.

I am hopeful you will find the attached comments to be of value in that effort.

Best regards,

Sam Pace

[Sam@SamPace.com](mailto:Sam@SamPace.com)

253-569-2663

**Comment 146: from Sam Pace**

Greetings,

Late this evening (on May 24, 2018) I noticed a typo in the comments and additional comments I submitted to DFW in connection with SEPA #18016. The typo is located on page 7 of the additional comments in what I believe is the 12<sup>th</sup> sentence of the June 03, 2013, email from Sgt. Kim Chandler to Brian Boehm.

The typo involves the word "daughter" in the following (incorrect) sentence which instead should have included the word "dog":

*"One guy just out tossing a dummy for his daughter from time to time, although technically training, probably isn't of much concern to us."*

The corrected sentence, without the typo, should read:

*"One guy just out tossing a dummy for his dog from time to time, although technically training, probably isn't of much concern to us."*

I apologize for the error, for not catching that typo in the original SEPA comments, and for replicating the mistake in my additional SEPA comments.

Sincerely,

*Sam Pace*

[Sam@SamPace.com](mailto:Sam@SamPace.com)

253-569-2663

----- Original Message -----

Subject: SEPA # 18016 - Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Management Plan

From: <[sam@sampace.com](mailto:sam@sampace.com)>

Date: Thu, May 24, 2018 8:12 pm

To: [SEPADesk2@DFW.wa.gov](mailto:SEPADesk2@DFW.wa.gov)

Greetings:

Attached are additional comments I'm submitting for the record in connection with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife SEPA #18016 for the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Management Plan.

These comments are submitted on behalf of me personally, and not on behalf of any other organization, or any other person.

Sincerely,

Sam Pace

[Sam@SamPace.com](mailto:Sam@SamPace.com)

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253-569-2663

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Major - But Avoidable - Opposition to WDFW 2019-2021 Budget Is Forming

From: <[sam@sampace.com](mailto:sam@sampace.com)>

Date: Thu, May 24, 2018 9:41 pm

To: [SEPADesk2@DFW.wa.gov](mailto:SEPADesk2@DFW.wa.gov), [Director@DFW.wa.gov](mailto:Director@DFW.wa.gov)

Cc: [Leslie.Connelly@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:Leslie.Connelly@ofm.wa.gov), [Jim.Cahill@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:Jim.Cahill@ofm.wa.gov),

[Jim.Crawford@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:Jim.Crawford@ofm.wa.gov), [Scott.Merriman@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:Scott.Merriman@ofm.wa.gov),

[Roselyn.Marcus@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:Roselyn.Marcus@ofm.wa.gov), [Patricia.Lashway@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:Patricia.Lashway@ofm.wa.gov),

[Pat.Lashway@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:Pat.Lashway@ofm.wa.gov), [David.Schumacher@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:David.Schumacher@ofm.wa.gov),

[Drew.Shirk@gov.wa.gov](mailto:Drew.Shirk@gov.wa.gov), [David.Postman@gov.wa.gov](mailto:David.Postman@gov.wa.gov), [Andi.Smith@gov.wa.gov](mailto:Andi.Smith@gov.wa.gov),

[Keith.Phillips@gov.wa.gov](mailto:Keith.Phillips@gov.wa.gov)

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