

Wenas Wildlife Area Target Shooting Advisory Committee

September 14, 2017 – Selah Civic Center
Meeting Summary

Committee Members in Attendance

Lee Davis	Keely Hopkins	Norm Peck
Bill Essman	Jim Lydigsen	Robert Schafer
Tim Funkhouser	Debby McCandless	Tanya Stanley
Bret Hollar	Craig O'Brine	Rachel Voss

Facilitators

Elizabeth McManus and Andy Chinn, Ross Strategic

Agency Representation

Aaron Garcia, WDFW	Nathan Longoria, WDFW	Dave Whipple, WDFW
Ross Huffman, WDFW	Mike Livingston, WDFW	

Welcome and Introductions

Elizabeth McManus welcomed meeting participants and reviewed the meeting agenda. Committee members, WDFW staff, and members of the public introduced themselves.

Wenas User Survey

The Wenas user survey has approximately 500 responses to-date. The Committee agreed to keep the survey open for a longer period of time to allow for more responses. The survey responses will provide important information as Committee recommendations are implemented, particularly recommendations around outreach and education.

Fire Information

Committee members discussed the fire information provided by WDFW. Committee members expressed concern that the general public will have a distorted impression of the magnitude of the target shooting problem. WDFW's determination about the cause of some of the fires at the Wenas Wildlife Area are not conclusive and should therefore be categorized as "unknown cause". One Committee member commented that if fires caused by target shooting are a major WDFW concern then more resources should be dedicated to fire investigation.

Next Steps

- Ross Strategic will draft and circulate revised language on fire information with the Committee.

Draft Recommendations

The Committee reviewed each of its 17 draft recommendations and discussed key issues and concerns. Elizabeth straw-pollled Committee members to determine their level of support for each recommendation and grouped the recommendations according to level of support. For some of the recommendations the Committee members were strongly supportive, while some recommendations needed additional revision before Committee members felt comfortable supporting them.

The Committee recommendations on managed sites require the most work to reach a point where Committee members can endorse. WDFW is in contact with Kittitas County and Yakima County to discuss required permitting associated with the Committee's proposed site improvements.

WDFW staff provided agency feedback on the draft Committee recommendations. WDFW supports the Committee's recommendations and agency feedback mostly related to clarifying specific aspects of recommendations. WDFW reiterated that individual member support for the recommendations, including for example participating in WA State Recreation Commission hearings, will be important as the agency moves forward with implementing. WDFW also requested that the Committee consider two questions related to its recommendations:

1. When does dispersed shooting become concentrated site shooting?
2. Although they will certainly address the issues at the Wildlife Area, WDFW's implementation of the Committee's recommendations will not completely stop unsafe activities from happening. With that in mind, how will WDFW know when it has done enough?

Next Steps

- Ross Strategic will draft and circulate revised language for Committee recommendations based on the suggestions provided during the meeting.
- Ross Strategic will contact Committee members not present at the meeting for feedback on the draft recommendations.

October Listening Sessions

The October listening sessions are scheduled for October 2 (Selah) and October 4 (Ellensburg). Committee members are encouraged to attend. A short handout with descriptions of the Committee's draft recommendations will be available for attendees. Ross Strategic will provide a brief presentation that outlines draft Committee recommendations.

Public Comments

There were no public comments offered at the meeting.

[Meeting adjourned]

Meeting Materials (available [online](#))

- Meeting agenda
- Draft Committee recommendations