

Draft 12/18/17 - Note: These are the facilitation team's summary of the meeting; Committee consensus is documented in the Committee's report and recommendations.

Wenas Wildlife Area Target Shooting Advisory Committee
December 13, 2017 – Hal Holmes Center
Meeting Summary

Committee Members in Attendance

John Baranowski
Lee Davis
Bill Essman
Tim Funkhouser
Bret Hollar

Keely Hopkins
Walt Hyde
Brian Lund
Jim Lydigsen
Steve Miller

Clay Meyers
Craig O'Brine
Norm Peck
Bob Schafer
Rachel Voss

Facilitators

Elizabeth McManus and Andy Chinn, Ross Strategic

Agency Representation

Cindi Confer-Morris, WDFW
Aaron Garcia, WDFW
Ross Huffman, WDFW
Larry Leach, WDNR
Nathan Longoria, WDFW
Mike Livingston, WDFW
Scott McCorquodale, WDFW
Bob Weaver, WDFW

Additional Participation

Representative Tom Dent
Debby McCandless

Draft 12/18/17 - Note: These are the facilitation team's summary of the meeting; Committee consensus is documented in the Committee's report and recommendations.

Welcome and Introductions

Elizabeth McManus welcomed meeting participants and reviewed the meeting agenda. Elizabeth thanked Committee members for their work, patience, and energy throughout the Committee's deliberations. Elizabeth reminded Committee members that this is the final meeting for this phase of the Committee's work and that the Committee's final report will be forwarded to WDFW with meeting materials and summaries appended.

Draft Recommendations

Elizabeth summarized the results of the second straw poll on the Committee's recommendations. There were no significant changes to Committee consensus/non-consensus on the recommendations based on the second straw poll.

Committee Discussion:

- Recommendation 1
 - The Committee's report and recommendations seem to be "washing out" dispersed shooting.
- Recommendation 13
 - The subcommittee that discussed enhanced sites in the south, and Sheep Company Road in particular, did not discuss whether to limit the types of firearms that could be used at enhanced sites.
 - From a business plan perspective, by limiting the Sheep Company site to rifle and handgun use-only there will be a larger area for people to use. If someone is shooting at the Sheep Company site wants to use their shotgun, they can go to Bull Pasture or Cottonwood.
 - It's doubtful that after setting up for shooting rifle and handgun at Sheep Company people will pack up and re-set at another area just to use their shotgun.
 - Cottonwood is not a safe place to shoot.
- Recommendation 14
 - The Committee disagrees about dispersed shooting at Buffalo Road.
 - There should be more clarity about the specific geographic area to which the Committee refers when it talks about Buffalo Road.
- Recommendation 15
 - Rather than focused enhancements, some Committee members feel that safety at the East Umtanum site would be better served with more comprehensive enhancements.

Phased Approach and Continued Committee Involvement

Elizabeth reminded Committee members that Committee members have the option of adding any comments to the end of the final Committee report. Elizabeth requested that any comments be submitted for inclusion by Friday 12/22/17. Elizabeth will check with the three Committee members who were unable to attend the December meeting.

Draft 12/18/17 - Note: These are the facilitation team's summary of the meeting; Committee consensus is documented in the Committee's report and recommendations.

Committee members asked about recent information regarding mountain bike trails that were established illegally on the Wenas Wildlife Area. Both WDFW and WDNR have affirmed that the public is not authorized to construct mountain bike trails on public lands.

Committee Discussion:

- Important to recall that the Wenas Wildlife Area was purchased with Pittman-Robertson funding; therefore paid for by hunters, shooters, archers who continue to fund it. No other user groups pay to use the Wenas Wildlife Area with the exception of those who purchase Discover Passes (which is a small amount of funding). Although there is room for other users, hunters and target shooters should have first option for use of the land.
- A similar problem (publicly built trails) exists at Buffalo Road, where hikers and horseback riders have built a trail.

WDFW Comments on Implementation and Next Phase of Committee Work

Scott McCorquodale and Mike Livingston discussed WDFW's planning around next steps for the Committee's work. Committee dialogue and interaction will continue through WDFW staff efforts. There will be reduced capacity from the first phase of work but as part of planning for phase 2, WDFW will be reaching out individually to Committee members. Committee meetings are expected to occur quarterly or twice per year, depending on the Committee's need and WDFW staff capacity.

WDFW Region 3 staff will brief WDFW headquarters on the Committee's report. Resources for many of the Committee's recommendations will originate from WDFW headquarters.

Region 3 staff will also develop a realistic timeline for implementation, as well as a resource needs assessment. WDFW recognizes that some of the Committee's recommendations can be addressed with existing funds while others will require funding from the capital budget. WDFW is also considering grant opportunities that might address some of the Committee's recommendations.

Mike Livingston thanked the Committee for their work and for raising the issues identified through the Committee's process. Mike acknowledged that WDFW's core constituency has been – and continues to be – hunters and fishers. As WDFW begins to implement recommendations the Agency will evaluate whether the original seven goals laid out at the beginning of the Committee's process are being met.

Discussion:

- The proposed WAC change is proceeding under internal WDFW review
- Representative Dent thanked the Committee for their time and involvement
- Committee members affirmed that education and outreach are critical to success

Public Comments

- [Clarifying question] What was the Committee's final recommendation on the East Umtanum site? (Committee affirmed that it is suggesting limited enhancements to the East Umtanum site).

[Meeting adjourned]

Draft 12/18/17 - Note: These are the facilitation team's summary of the meeting; Committee consensus is documented in the Committee's report and recommendations.

Meeting Materials (available [online](#))

- Meeting agenda
- Draft Committee recommendations
- Summary of straw poll result

DRAFT