

Wenas Target Shooting Advisory Committee Meeting

January 31, 2019

Ellensburg Armory Room B

6:00-8:30 PM

Meeting Notes

Check-in

There were introductions and everyone checked in on how they were doing.

Discuss Buffalo Rd

Ross provided a brief review of the history of our discussions to date and how we got to proposing 3 alternatives for management of target shooting at Buffalo Road. The group reviewed the survey monkey results. A majority of the committee members supported or could live with option 1, which would designate a target shooting closure area, with a shotgun-only area designated along the Green Dot road accessed via Buffalo Road. The committee discussed the boundary proposed on the map and some potential adjustments. DFW will adjust the boundary and will move forward with implementation in conjunction with the improvements at Durr Road and Sheep Company Road. There was a discussion on parking for the shotgun-only area; discussion also occurred on when road improvements would happen.

Update from DFW on other topics

Scott provided an update on the WAC change, including the timeline for implementation, which is currently December 2019. Ross shared a draft outreach plan for 2019 for DFW staff to spend additional time around the target shooting areas contacting users and providing information on target shooting and safe use of the wildlife area. Ross shared 3 draft signs with the group and the committee supported the signs, while providing some editorial comments that will be incorporated.

Sheep Company and Durr Rd Range Improvements

The group began by reviewing the survey monkey results for Durr Road and the maps. Most people supported the proposed improvements, but wanted to provide for longer distance shooting. DFW will leave room for expansion and additional review to try to accommodate some longer distances. In addition, concern was expressed about capacity at the 25 and 100-yard ranges. Committee members would like to see additional firing lines and parking spaces. DFW will try to accommodate some additional capacity, but due to the topography and limited space it might be cost prohibitive and challenging given the landscapes at Durr. A comment was made about lead remediation at the shotgun area along Durr Road and that due to the location and topography it will be more difficult to clean up. Next, the group discussed the Sheep Company location and the survey monkey results. Support for the original layout was limited, primarily due to not accommodating long distances (600-1000 yards). DFW presented a new draft layout that removed the 200-yard range and created a long distance area with

berms across the creek for multiple distances. This long distance concept would need additional design and review and is planned for Phase 2. The committee generally supported the proposed changes, but would like to see 200 yards still provided for in some capacity, primarily for sighting in hunting rifles. DFW will do some additional outreach to committee members not present to get their input. There was also some discussion on space and whether to keep or drop a shotgun area and how to manage shotgun use at Sheep Company if no specific area was constructed. DFW will work with our engineers on adding capacity for a 200-yard distance and if that will affect the current proposed shotgun area. There was also the recommendation from a committee member to rotate the layout of the 25 yard range a little so it was not shooting parallel to the 100 yard range.

DFW shared the current timeline, which includes meeting with the counties for permitting, completing SEPA and cultural resource review. The current plan is to try to begin construction this spring/summer.

A recommendation was made for an agenda item at the next meeting on how to address user made trails on the wildlife area and an update from DFW on our progress for recreation management, specifically user built trails.

Public comment

There were public comments from 2 individuals.

The first commenter stated there are too many disciplines being proposed at Sheep Company and not enough space. The commenter suggested the shotgun area be removed and the area should be closed to shotgun use (i.e., shotgun use would be unlawful). The commenter wanted the design proposed in the committee report to be used. Additionally he stated that a closure at Buffalo Road is not necessary, that changing the rules will cover the concerns, along with education. The commenter suggested this approach for 2 years; if not successful, then the closure could be considered.

The second commenter expressed concern for not having a shotgun area at Sheep Company, and if people showed up anyway and used shotguns it would just perpetuate the continued lack of following the rules and people not caring about the site.

Wrap up/Check-out

The meeting finished a little early and everyone went home.