

Wenas Target Shooting Advisory Committee Meeting

November 14, 2019

Selah Fire Station

6:00-7:30 PM

Meeting Notes

Welcome and Check-in

Ross welcomed the committee members back, and everyone checked in and mentioned Thanksgiving/holiday plans. Some members arrived a little late and introductions were done again, including members of the public in attendance.

Review Draft Rule WAC 220-500-140 Process to Date

Mike reviewed the process WDFW has been going through since the committee made the recommendation. This included coordination with Olympia and staff in other regions to build support, and development of the draft rule. In addition, there has been outreach and coordination with DNR on issues they have identified with their rule. Scott also discussed some of the key points in the draft rule like definition of a backstop that took significant time to come to agreement on. Committee members asked several questions to clarify the process and about the support across the agency.

Review Draft Rule WAC 220-500-140 Language

Ross reviewed the draft rule going through each point in the rule, as questions came up committee members asked for clarification and there were general discussions on many points. A key topic addressed was the backstop definition and if the draft definition was sufficient. Another topic was 4(c) items prohibited as targets, questions were raised on if it was necessary to list so many items, a concern was also raised with 4(c)xvi which lists other vegetation, and what if there was grass or brush on your backstop, could you be cited. In general, there was support for the draft rule expressed by committee members present. The group then reviewed the matrix comparing the current rule, draft rule and DNR rule. The group had additional discussion and a committee member asked if a definition of dispersed target shooting was necessary.

Ross also provided an update on the WDFW lease of DNR lands on wildlife areas and how all DFW rules will be enforced on those lands.

The committee was advised that they can continue to provide comments and feedback to Ross and that there will be a formal comment period as well during the rule adoption process.

Update on Range Improvements and Implementation

Ross provided a quick update on the proposed range improvements for Sheep Company and Durr Roads. Permits for Yakima County are almost complete and construction will start in spring as soon as weather conditions allow. Durr Road permit applications are almost ready to submit and plans are to begin construction in the summer after Sheep Company is complete. There was a discussion on plans for Phase 2 especially the long-range shooting.

Public Comment

There was public comment from 3 people.

A question was asked on long range target shooting that is occurring on USFS land and if that will be allowed on wildlife areas. There was also a question clarifying if milk jugs filled with water would be prohibited as targets.

There was concern raised with point 1 on the draft rule and what criteria we would use to restrict target shooting.

A concern was raised with point 3(e) about where target shooting being prohibited to shoot over any water body or stream. This may impact some areas where there are seasonal streams. There was also a question about the Access Pass and Discover pass on leased lands.

Wrap up/Check-out

Ross thanked those in attendance for being there, for the input received, and encouraged additional comments if anything comes up. The meeting finished at 7:30.