

To the Washington State Department of Natural Resources,

There should be public areas that are open for target shooting on state lands. Tahuya State Forest would be a good place for that. A planned area would be a great addition to that area and be of great benefit to public safety as well.

We live at the bottom of the hill by the proposed site on Tahuya Blacksmith Road. We did not even know that this site was being considered until I read an article on line. We did receive a flyer in our post office box 5 days before the meeting about the public meeting to discuss this issue. We had an out of town commitment and could not attend the meeting. The flyer said nothing about the actual sites proposed.

We are extremely opposed to this site. We have lived here for 26 years. We are concerned about safety, the value of our home, the noise, the hours when shooting can take place, and the traffic.

Tahuya Blacksmith Road and Belfair Tahuya Road are 2 lane roads. Tahuya Blacksmith has a 25 mph speed limit with curves and limited visibility.

We purchased our 5 acres with a large house and horse barn to enjoy the quiet country setting. Behind our property is the Tahuya State Forest. We liked that idea because we thought no one could build behind us. We never envisioned that the state land at the top of the hill would become a shooting range. We sacrificed many conveniences living out here and it has been worth it. We don't want to live in what sounds like a war zone now.

I'm happy to discuss this with you. Please respond by email if possible.

I just heard about the proposal for a shooting range by Howell Lake. My husband and I have been a resident on Haven Lake for over 20 years which is about 1 mile away from the proposed site, and we don't want to hear the gunshot noise or have to worry about stray bullets in the area. Haven Lake is a peaceful, lovely lake and gunshot noise would affect our enjoyment of the peace and quiet and the lake tranquility we have enjoyed over the years.

Please reconsider this proposed site—there are too many people in the area who would be negatively impacted by this.

I just found out about the proposed target shooting range in the Tahuya State Forest. My wife and I own two properties on nearby Tee Lake. Why wasn't I (or any of my neighbors) notified of any of the public meetings that have been held last year and this year on the proposed target shooting ranges? I hope it is not too late to express my opinion and concerns. Please add me to any mail or e-mail lists you may have regarding this proposal.

I am very concerned about the noise pollution that will be generated by a target shooting range, especially from a range at the proposed Tahuya-Blacksmith site. This site is very close to Tee Lake and other nearby lakes that have residential and recreational property surrounding the lakes. The sound from gunfire travels

over very long distances. I'm extremely concerned that a target range at the Tahuya-Blacksmith site will destroy the tranquility for nearby private property owners. The tranquility of the forest has already been destroyed by off-road vehicles (especially dirt bikes) which make it unpleasant for anyone that wants to hike or ride bikes in the forest. The noise pollution should not be further increased by developing a target shooting range in this forest.

I strongly object to developing a target shooting range in the Tahuya State Forest. I am specifically against the Tahuya-Blacksmith site. This site should not even be considered. It is on the very western most edge of the Tahuya State Forest which places it near to private property. Looking at a map of the forest it is clear that this site is located in a small "peninsula" of the state forest that is surrounded on three sides by private land. This means this particular site will have the largest adverse impact on nearby private property. Any proposed site for a target shooting range should be near the middle of the forest as far from private property as possible.

As a resident of North Mason County, I find it hard to find a place to target practice without knowing if it is alright to do so. I have target practiced there several times but always wondered if it would cause me, or others, problems to do so. The big thing I see is the fact that Tahuya State park is also an ORV park, especially on the weekends there are many people riding bikes and 4 wheeler's Everywhere. I have hunted and harvested deer in that park and always worried about those people when using my rifle. It is my opinion that the park should be a shotgun only hunting area for the sake of all those kids out there riding their recreational vehicles as one can't see what's on the other side of the trees and the newer bikes (ORV vehicles) have better mufflers now and one can't necessarily hear them until they are almost on top of you. Worries me a plenty.

Yes, I would very much appreciate some kind a range typeset up in a safe area with proper backstop for sighting in my firearm for hunting season, and or just staying proficient with my firearm. Well this is just my 2 cents worth for whatever its worth. I also wonder about closing Tahuya State park to ORV vehicles during modern rifle hunting season.

Dear officials:

This is to express my dismay over the proposal to have a targeted shooting range near Tahuya. My family and I are strongly opposed to this proposed continuing assault on our peace and quiet.

We have enjoyed family time in our forest cabin for two generations now, and the thought of the unremitting noise from a shooting range is unspeakably depressing. Please act to preserve the peace and tranquility of one of the remaining rural areas.

The tranquil forests of Tahuya Peninsula should not be degraded by gunshots all the time.

Sirs,

No matter which option is selected, it is vital that the location be developed to some modest level, or more, to prevent it from becoming just another eyesore which is potentially unsafe. Just selecting a location is not adequate for a range!

Pittman-Robertson Act funds are intended to be used for such development, NOT walking paths in the cities!, and with a token amount of coordination I expect that volunteers could be obtained to help design and install a decent facility.

Mission Hurd vs. Blacksmith site?

Just looking at the topo map I'd say locate a range at Blacksmith.

Hurd looks too close to the canal and residents and tourists will no doubt be complaining. Sure to be future population growth and growing complaints and operation restrictions.

I'd locate it further away with some buffer zone to avoid conflicts.

The gun range in Tacoma (near Chambers Bay 2 - 3 mi. away) has to stop at 5 or 6 PM due to local residents complaining about the noise. Not even air rifles are allowed to shoot after that time. So, no after work shooting for anyone Mon-Fri pretty much.

I think more gun ranges and/or safe places to shoot should be made available to the public. Possibly could be an addition to states revenue is "gravel pit" type areas were available & state could charge of a flat rate \$5.00 per person to shoot for the day

I live on NE North Shore Road, between Belfair and Tahuya. The Tahuya State Forest lies upslope from my home.

Last weekend as I was gardening one morning, I was subjected to about two hours of sporadic semi-automatic bursts of gunfire. It was obnoxious and the furthest thing from responsible use of forestlands. I am concerned that establishment of ranges will lead to the spread of such gun use elsewhere in the forest near my home.

I do not support the establishment of ranges for target shooting in the Tahuya State Forest. Neither the Tahuya Blacksmith nor Mission Hurd sites are far enough away from other uses to be appropriate. There are major roads nearby and other recreational uses of the, and in the case of the Tahuya Blacksmith site, homes not that far away at Haven Lake and Lake Wooten.

I was on the Tahuya Blacksmith Road about a week ago. The Tahuya State Forest sign was riddled with bullets.

Dear DNR,

Thank you for taking the time to study this. As an active ORV trail users, Snowboarder, Snowmobiler, and last but not least recreational shooter. I want to thank you for managing the lands that the state has. That said, we do need more places to recreation shoot around here and if you believe the two sites are safe, it would be safer to give those in the area more options then the waddle creek triangle pit.

While utilizing the Waddle Creek pit, I've met people that have driven as far as Portland, Ore and Bellevue, WA to use it.

Please consider this support for creating recreational shooting pit in the Tahuya area.

DNR,

Thank you for accepting suggestions.

As a lifelong Kitsap Co. resident, I've watched the use of firearms become nearly fully restricted. Plinking on the family property was once a given, but no more. Rights, what Rights?

I'd request a map be created of where manmade berms are and where natural earthen backstops are located. Not having this basic information is a safety issue as well as providing assurance one is shooting in an appropriate area. As it stands, shooting is a guessing game.

The only way to find locations is by word of mouth or searching endless miles of area, guessing, and hoping when an area is found one is not going to be swarmed by LEO's. It is virtually impossible to know if a person is on ST or private land.

As of now, I really have nowhere legal to fire a firearm without paying to go to a range, of which there are few. It would seem my Rights are unable to be exercised as I have to pay to enjoy them.

Signed, disappointed good American.

Please keep all public lands open for target shooting. Washington needs a rich shooting and outdoor heritage, preserved for all future generations. Thank you

Anywhere u can build a shooting range is good.
Almost none on this side of the state, especially for long guns.

Hello

We own a home in the Tahuya River Valley Community, and we would like to be kept informed about the plans for legal target shooting in the Tahuya State Forest.

Please add our email to your list for info.

Our main concerns are:

- Stray bullets
- Noise

These are already concerns, with the shooting that goes on across the river now.
People in the community will need a way to report problems and get a prompt response.
What are the plans to enforce laws and deal with complaints?
Will shooters need a license to shoot there?

Thank you for adding us to your list for updates.

There are plenty of open spaces to shoot safely with minimum people - especially in and around DNR lands. My brothers, a Green Beret, 1st Co. and an Army Ranger live there for many years enjoying the, "thou shalt not infringe" second amendment inalienable rights!

There exists a need for a target shooting range in the Tahuya State Forest and I support and encourage one.

Thank you

Recreational shooting in the forest itself is not a wise choice. Shooting should only be conducted on established ranges with certified range masters to insure safety. Too many people use the forest to make uncontrolled shooting safe.

Some states have a bigger concern w/ keeping public lands open to hunting / target shooting than WA State, however WA State has its share of closures too. The NRA taking a stand on keeping public lands open is a primary reason I plan on staying in the Assn.

I have been the owner/operator of a private shooting range for over two decades.

Prior to that, I was a firearms instructor for the military.

During that long period, I taught safe gun handling to many thousands of soldiers and citizens.

Without a space to do so, this would have been impossible.

There are more arms and ammo in possession of the American public than at any time in our history.

The recreational shooting sports have never been more popular to so many people.

It is our responsibility to encourage safe-use.

Designated portions of public land could be very helpful in making that happen.

Also, it would contain the trash sometimes generated by irresponsible shooters.

Let's do great things.

Yes, this range is a good concept, to serve this area and the citizenry.

Either site would be acceptable to me. The main thing is that there is an environmentally friendly location AND that the NRA has accessibility to target shooting areas for future generations in our state.

As I see in so many other areas of the state, any easily accessible area designated for target shooting instantly becomes a dumpsite. Sometimes this is due to shooters who lack the class to clean up after themselves. Mostly it is low class wastes of human flesh intentionally dumping without care one for anything more than their selfish gratification and denial of personal responsibility. And while this latter group may have the right to keep and bear arms, I strongly question their maturity and understanding of the responsibility for safe firearm ownership, the consideration and conservation of public lands and the true understanding of the responsibilities of these rights as protected by our Constitution.

These few malcontents are ruining it for everyone. But, until you can stop these cretins from their destructive abuse, leaving any area open without security and ability to arrest these people, as well as stiffer penalties for environmental abuse, nothing will change.

I personally pull as much trash out as I can carry after leaving these areas. When I leave, you won't know I've been there.

If you are really interested in seeing the safe practice of the shooting sports, get Kitsap County to stop the witch-hunt that has closed the Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club! These politically driven, unfair, uncooperative, and unnecessary county restrictions, along with stalling, bullying, and other unfair practices have removed the single most effective method of keeping the forest safe and clean for everyone.

By charter, the Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club is determined to keep the shooting sports safe, to teach the proper use of firearms as well as safe hunting practices, which by extension, means keeping our forests green. The more shooters you can get on the range, the less will have need to use the public forests. This allows the DNR to better address the issues of land management without the infringement on those not responsible for its abuse.

Give us back the club, and I say go ahead and close the forests to those who would abuse it, and let us keep practicing our constitutional rights in a safe and productive manner.

I have been to the area several times. Of the two proposed sites, the Mission Hurd might be the better site for accessibility and control. The other site is near lakes where there are a lot of people who dry camp in the area.

It has been several years since going to Tahuya. This would be a good area to keep recreation shooting available. Ranges in Washington State are getting harder to find and are usually very busy. Capitol Forest in Olympia/Lacey, Washington is a nice open range with good management.

Thanks for keeping us informed.

As a responsible gun owner and Washington State taxpayer, I ask for your consideration to continue to allow target shooting in the Tahuya State Forest.

I don't feel that measures to restrict target shooting are necessary and warranted.

Please approve a safe and secure shooting facility that will accommodate recreational shooters. Thank you!

Either one or both would work.

I am opposed in principle to having a shooting range as the only place to shoot in the national forest. My experience is that after a while the same group of shooters essentially take over the range and the only times the rest of us who shoot less frequently are relegated to are either lousy shooting times or have to put our name on a list and hope the turnover is high enough that our name finally comes up sometimes hours later. Much rather have open shooting areas we can go to. Of course, the daily or high volume shooters will be opposed to this.

I like both sites Tahuya Blacksmith is the one I would prefer, I'm also certified instructor, it is closer to where I live.

My concern is it a wide shooting range for different firearms shotguns, rifles, and handguns.

Or is it limited shooting space.

I would like to know if there going have a picnic area for people to sit, watch, and have place to eat.

I couldn't make the meeting.

Regardless in favor of a shooting range open to the public.

I am another Washington State Resident who supports the idea of a shooting range in the Tahuya State Forest recreational area. Public lands should be for public use and firearms owners and as tax-paying members of the public deserve a place to enjoy their sport.

We need a place to shoot

Finding the right spot to put in a quality range must be very difficult. The range suggested would be great asset in this state.

Hurd looks the best for safety can see around you. And post signs around the perimeter

That is a great opportunity for the southwest gun enthusiasts and hunters. I wish there was a range like that going on/being built in Spokane County. I just purchased a 7mm mag for hunting about 2 months ago and have not sighted it in yet. I want a place where i can safely get go and get it ready for hunting. One of the harder parts of that is finding a place where i can practice 300, 400, and 5-600yd shooting. It's hard to be confident in long range shooting without practice. And i am not willing to practice/hope for the best on an animal. If you have any suggestions please chime in. I know there is the Spokane gun club here, but have not checked it out. I'm assuming it is a 100yd range, but that still leaves out the higher yardage. Will probably just have to go up into the hills somewhere unless you know of something else? Thanks for your time in reading this.

If you missed the Target Shooting Meeting last night, you can view it on masonwebtv.com below.

I think Glenn Glover did an excellent job with the presentation and ran a great meeting. Everyone was allowed to voice their opinions and if they did not in the open presentation, they were encouraged to do it in the three break out stations.

I am hoping for a quick resolution on selecting a Signed Designated Shooting Area without any facilities. Facilities would just lengthen the entire process and we need a designated shooting area NOW!

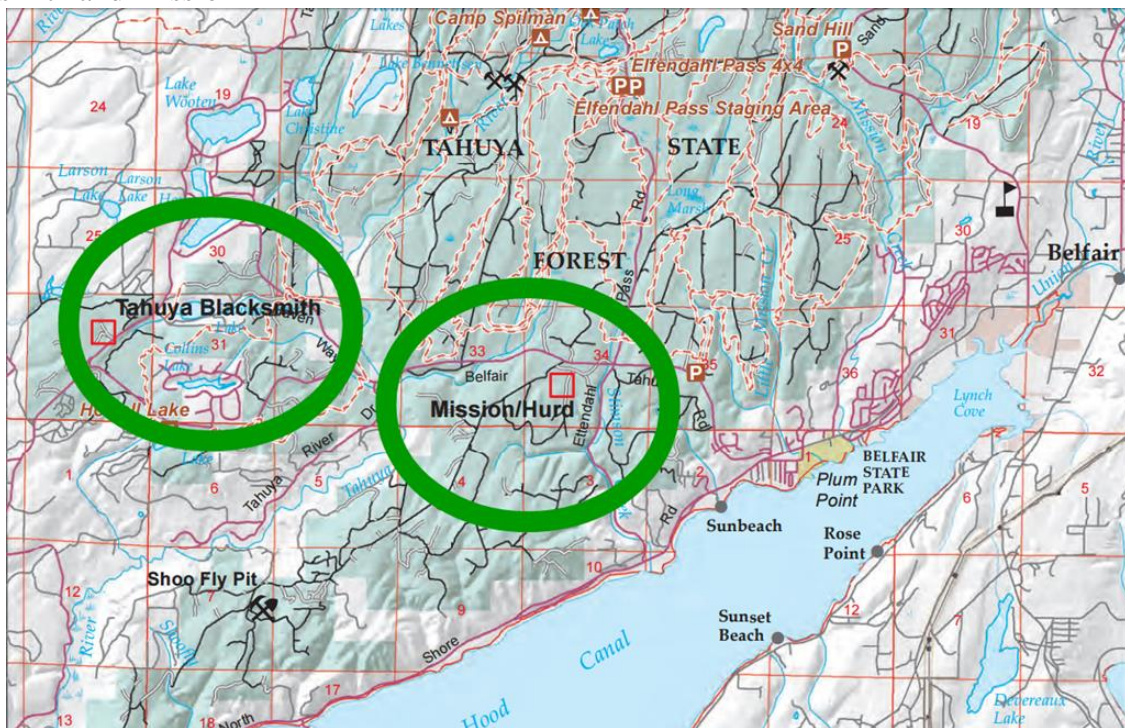
You all still have time to email your comments to DNR by sending an email to: TargetShooting@dnr.wa.gov and checking their web site at: www.dnr.wa.gov/TargetShooting for more info.

Keep in mind that Target Shooting is an issue that needs to be resolved and it is no different than any other recreation carried out on DNR lands and there is no way we can keep everyone happy. It takes some give and take by all sides to resolve this issue. If it cannot be resolved, the present state and county laws will prevail and those simple state a firearm must be discharged in a safe manner. Noise does not enter into this law.

I would like to thank Sen Tim Sheldon and Rep Dan Griffey for taking their time to attend this meeting. Rep Drew MacEwen was not able to attend but send his Legislative Assistant, Pam Kentner to take notes and keep him abreast of the situation. All three of these legislators have been actively involved and monitoring the progress of this issue.

DNR Suggests Sites for Target Shooting in Tahuya State Forest

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is suggesting two possible sites in the Tahuya State Forest for target shooting. Tuesday night, DNR officials held a meeting to hear what residents think. Glenn Glover, Acting Statewide Recreation Manager, started the meeting with a presentation which explained how they got to this point, what the current law allows, what challenges the DNR faces in locating shooting facilities, and showed the possible sites: Tahuya Blacksmith and Mission



Hurd.

After the presentation, those in attendance were asked to go to “listening stations” to provide their input. Officials hope to use that input to identify a preferred location for target shooting. Additional public meetings will then be held before the DNR would secure funding to design and build a target shooting area.

Here are links to maps of proposed sites:

Proposed site locations map: http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/amp_rec_ts_proposed_sites.pdf

Tahuya Blacksmith Potential Site Map:

http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/amp_rec_ts_tb_map.pdf

Enlarged Tahuya Blacksmith Potential Site Map:

http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/amp_rec_ts_tb_zoom.pdf

Mission Hurd Potential Site Map: http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/amp_rec_ts_mh_map.pdf
Enlarged Mission Hurd Potential Site Map:
http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/amp_rec_ts_mh_zoom.pdf

- See more at: <http://masonwebtv.com/archives/26201#sthash.NmBUNiN6.dpuf>

I am looking forward to the meeting tonight in Belfair regarding Target Shooting in the Tahuya. This is a HIGH PRIORITY safety issue that DNR must resolve ASAP. We have way too many ORV users and Brush pickers who are in the woods that most target shooters are not even aware of. By designating one or two target shooting specific areas that are posted to keep others out of that designated area will make things a lot safer. I am a DNR Volunteer and have watched and contacted Target Shooters for many years. I was also instrumental in getting the gate open to allowing target shooting in the Shoofly Pit off Hurd Road and frequent that area on a regular basis and talk with the target shooters. By an overwhelming majority, they all express their need for designated target shooting areas.

Here are some of my comments that I would love to have addressed during tonight's meeting:

1. Current NO SHOOTING Signs need to be changed to NO TARGET SHOOTING. I had hunters ask me last season why Hurd Road was closed to deer hunting. I assured them those signs are only meant to ban target shooting off Hurd Road since there are trails below the road that they cannot see.
2. Need designated target shooting areas NOT developed sites with lots of rules. From everything I am hearing, DNR is making this issue way too complicated. We do not need any facilities, we just need a couple of designated Target Shooting areas that are posted well so others will not use that area for other recreation.
3. The designated areas must be readily accessible to law enforcement, close to paved roads, otherwise it goes to the bottom of their response list. We have very few deputies and DNR LEO is almost never in our area. Our E&E person is also virtually non-existent.
4. For safety's sake, DNR needs designated areas NOW!
5. Need areas for pistol like Shoofly Pit and also 200-yard area for sighting in hunting rifles.
6. Since DNR has been working on this issue for over 3 years with no imminent resolution, I think it is time to form a Citizens Advisory Group like we have had in the past for recreation. I was on that committee and Target Shooting was the second most important item during those meetings, then DNR said, Target Shooting is off the table as it is not part of this committee. So, it is time to form a committee to address Target

Shooting in the Tahuya and Statewide. TARGET SHOOTING IS A RECREATION just like hiking, fishing, ORV'ing, etc., but unfortunately DNR is afraid to address this issue and as long as it is not addressed, people will continue to shoot wherever they see what they consider is a safe spot and create hazards to other users. During our Focus Group Meetings, all user groups have been supporting designating several areas for Target Shooting but Jesse Sims our Recreation Manager refuses to address this issue. He says it is above his pay grade which is BS to the users.

I am aware of the few objectors in the Tahuya River Valley. They call 911 on a regular basis about the shooting and explosions on Hurd Road. They also claim that they have had bullets hit in their yard emanating from the Shoofly Pit. Their reports are not true but cost the taxpayers a lot of money for deputy response. A deputy a couple of months ago found a person using exploding targets which are not legal on DNR land, but he was doing it on his own property just outside of the Tahuya River Valley community so no law violation existed. I have tried to explain this to one of the objectors to the target shooting issue and she told me: "Just wait we WILL succeed in getting target shooting banned in the Shoofly Pit, Hurd Rd and anywhere else close enough where they can hear it."

Please let's move this issue forward to an immediate resolution. It does not have to be a perfect resolution but a starting point which can be modified as the need dictates. Let me know if you can be of assistance in resolving this issue.

Thanks and looking forward to this meeting,

PS: Please enter this email into the official record of comments on this issue.

I want to express my opinion that target shooting in public lands should not be allowed unless the following can be met:

- 1) Environmental use studies showing long term effects of noise pollution and other forms of related pollution (discharged ammunition) on wildlife in any specific location or season where it is proposed (especially effects on nesting, hibernation, and sleep patterns of nocturnal animals).
- 2) Adequate ranger staff to monitor that shooting is done safely for other members of the public in the area with the ability to strictly enforce the law
- 3) Up-to-date information for the public warning them when and where shooting is permitted so that people can avoid the area

On several occasions in WA state and national public lands, I've witnessed people shooting outside designated areas, while drinking alcohol and polluting and was unable to reach rangers to report the activity. When and where shooting is allowed, rangers should be present in the area to monitor it. People who camp overnight must pay additional use fees to fund rangers to monitor them, and target shooters should be required to do the same since their use impacts the local environment and affects the recreational needs of others while posing risks to the public safety if not done correctly.

When a form of recreation affects an area so that the majority of people and wildlife can no longer safely use it, it is hardly "public" anymore. The same rules should apply to any form of recreation that creates equivalent noise and risks to the safety of others.

I want to show my support for the outdoor Tahuya Target Shooting range. I will not be able to attend the June meeting.

Hi-

First, thanks for your work.

I am very happy to hear that you are working to provide a safe place to shoot. In the current western Washington environment, it is becoming more and more difficult to find a place to practice shooting particularly at ranges of 100-500 yards. Please consider our needs, and hopefully something can be set up. A nominal charge (\$5-\$10) would be totally understandable...

To whom it may concern;

I am a long time hunter, recreational shooter, and avid outdoorsman. I am former Army, 12B (Combat Engineer) and also am a long time CWP permit holder. I have lived in Bremerton almost my entire life, so Kitsap, Jefferson, and Mason counties have been my stomping grounds for many years.

Unfortunately, I am in the hospital at the moment and will be here for a few more weeks. This means that I will miss this meeting 20 June. I am all for a designated, safe place for people to target shoot in the DNR forest with all the range rules in place for shooter safety.

I was wondering if I could get a copy of the meeting minutes or a brief description of the outcome of this upcoming meeting. I would really like a list of all places to target shoot on DNR lands in Washington State if you have such a list.

Thanks for your time and info

With Kitsap Rifle and Revolver club shut down for the foreseeable future more shooters will be looking for alternate sites.

At the very least, good info with maps should be posted on the DNR website so that shooters can find good, safe, accessible areas to enjoy shooting sports.

I live in the camp union area and would love a place where I can go and shoot legally, safely, and enjoyably.

As it is now, while I know there must be areas where it is legal to shoot, finding them is next to impossible which can easily lead to shooting in areas where it is either illegal, unsafe, or both. Some Identified good, safe shooting spots would help a lot.

I am a Tahuya resident. My residence borders on a small portion of the Tahuya State Forest.

The state of Washington has to be really careful to protect its' residents from unnecessary gunfire. We have "enough" residents in Dewatto who shoot for recreation.

We especially do not need more shooters in the areas of Robbins Lake or Aldrich Lake/s. The old Boy Scouts of America camp, owned by Pacific Harbors Council, Pierce County, has caretakers, however, they can't be everywhere.

I've only recently learned of the proposed shooting range in my area. My wife and I have lived on Tee Lake for 25 years; during that period, we have witnessed significant population growth in the area. This growth is attested to by the large increase in traffic on the principal arteries to Belfair; a more personal testimony is the fact that when we moved here in 1991 there were only six families on Tee Lake that were year-rounders; in the intervening years more than 30 homes have been built on the shores of Tee Lake and most owners are year-rounders; they are younger families, most with children. We oppose the proposal due to considerations of safety and the attendant noise associated with the proposal. In addition, there already is significant "dumping" by visitors to the area, we are concerned this proposal will increase the likelihood of this activity. Finally, living where we do was a choice made for peace and quiet; this peace and quiet comes at the accepted risk due to lack of law enforcement ability to adequately cover the area, this proposal would only increase demand for them that cannot be supported. I hope you will consider my points before final determination.

First off I want to share I live at Collins Lake and really like the idea of designated shooting areas that have been evaluated and meet all DNR requirements. I also recognize that these site and many more currently meet the shooting criteria on your website.

I have reviewed the Community feedback document and looking at the two proposed sites, the Mission/Herd site has significantly more distance to residential areas.

If you are keeping some kind of feedback tally, I would like this to be vote for the Mission/Herd Site.

I am writing this letter in opposition of the proposed Tahuya Black Smith target shooting range to be located in the Tahuya forest. My concerns are for the safety and direct risk of injury to the residents that live in the surrounding area due to stray bullets, the risk of lead contamination to our local ground water, lakes and salmon streams, and the noise generated by the gunfire not to mention the reduced resale value of our homes.

The proposed location is within one mile of four different residential lake communities; Tee Lake, Collins Lake, Lake Erdman and Haven Lake. All of these residential lake communities have full time residents that will be affected by the proposed target shooting range. If this site were to become an official target shooting range it would create an immense amount of noise and unsafe conditions that our residents will endure most certainly every weekend and possibly 7 days a week from sun up till sun down. The thought process by DNR and the planners to turn this site into a shooting range is truly unbelievable. With 23,000 thousands of acres in Tahuya and 6,000 acres around Green Mountain, I would think DNR could find space available that would not affect residential areas.

I did not buy my house next to a shooting range and would not expect the county or state to permit one to be constructed adjacent to a residential community. I do feel that a target shooting area or areas would be beneficial to the community; however putting it in our backyard is not the answer.

I have been actively working for designated target shooting areas in the Tahuya State Forest for at least 12 years. I have been stonewalled and ignored for 12 years. I cannot say how disappointed I am with your proposed shooting sites – they are clearly designed to cause hate and consternation in the community. Herb Gerhardt and I visited both sites yesterday.

Blacksmith Road: no natural backstop berm

- : Less than 1/2 mile to houses which are clearly visible
- : Very poor access and road
- : No suitable without extensive expensive work

Mission Hurd Road

- : Again, no natural berm
- : Would require construction of a bridge to reach shooting area
- : Firing lanes are directly toward housing
- : Dangerous access – blind spot for traffic – top of hill

The most desirable site is clearly the Stimson Road area

- : was widely favored by public comments at the meeting
- : Natural berm on two sides
- : There is a noise-absorbing hill between shooters and housing
- : Line of fire is away from housing
- : There is easy and good access by road
- : Could be adapted to shooting in one day by a cat
- : It was once the selected spot by DNR then removed with no published

reason

- : The one negative is that the dirt bikers would have to reroute one trail

Shooters had absolutely ZERO input on your selected sites – why is that?

When the four-wheelers got their new course, the users themselves were actively engaged in -

- : Site selection
- : Course layout and design

: Construction of the course

Why were shooters not extended the same courtesy as the 4-wheelers? We shooters are not even told who in DNR actually made these site selections.

It is abundantly clear that someone in DNR does not want target shooting in the Tahuya otherwise, we would have had a site years ago.

Target shooting is a legal, desirable, wanted activity as specifically provided for by WAC 332-52-145.

There are far more target shooters than 4-wheelers but 4-wheelers get the favor of DNR – why is that?

Shooters are asking for one tenth of one percent of the land in the Tahuya State Forest. How can that be too much to ask for?

I would appreciate some answers before you start construction.

In regards to the below article that states the state is proposing designated target shooting sites, I think that is a very bad idea.

1) \$\$\$ is the number one reason I can think of. How many millions will be wasted on environmental studies? Tahuya has been used for target shooting with zero incidents that I know of. Kitsap Sun writes these anti 2nd amendment articles from time to time to make people upset that don't have knowledge of Tahuya or shooting.

2) If it's not broke, don't fix it. The small amount of people that go shooting in Tahuya doesn't warrant a designated shooting area. There is a basically an unofficial site already that shooters use and clean up after themselves.

3) There is a very limited amount of gun ranges (only one that I know of) in Kitsap. For people who enjoy shooting traveling to an indoor range in Tacoma isn't a feasible option.

<http://www.kitsapsun.com/story/news/local/communities/mason/2017/06/21/state-considering-two-designated-shooting-sites-tahuya-forest/417084001/>

This email is in response to the proposed Tahuya State Forest shooting sight. My home is in line of sight of this proposed area and at this time, I would probably be impacted worse than anyone else in the area. Please call me concerning this sooner rather than later I will be following this up with a call to your office as well.

My concern about the target/shooting range near Tahuya-Blacksmith is that it is near my HOA (30 lots) and also near Haven Lake--a very populated area with many families. We value the peace and quiet here and I fear the gun range would lower the value of our houses and the quality of living out here. A more isolated area would be far more beneficial to everyone involved!