

DNR Recreation - Harry Osborne State Forest Target Shooting Meeting
June 1, 2016
Community Feedback

1. What experiences have you had, negative or positive, with target shooting on DNR-managed lands?

Negative

Too many users at Medford Pit because there aren't enough spots to go
Horse trail behind pit is too close for safety
Not enough signs to inform horse and pit users
Too much litter/garbage – DNR should pay for it to be hauled away
Need more areas
No lanes or control – lack of organization,
Noise
Too much rock in the Medford Pit backstop
Discover Pass is prohibitive
Reckless shooting – lawlessness
Territorial feelings between recreation groups
Unawareness of non-shooters entering the pit
Not enough advance information about pit and forest closures 2x
Feeling like there is no source of information

Positive

A local group helps clean up and organize the pit
Family recreation shooting
Convenience
Mostly contained
Enjoy opportunity to exercise their 2nd Amendment rights
The variety of shooting allowed is good
Opportunity to practice with guns increases safety

2. How do you think target shooting should be managed in this state forest?

More areas to shoot (away from trailheads)
DNR doesn't have the authority to manage authority on its lands
Have DNR and other agencies designate areas
Land ownership better identified
Allow for spread out use
Collaboration with clubs and groups
Close the gate to the pit at night
Add more enforcement
Establish areas with reliable access
Move/close existing trail above pit

Still have dispersed in some areas
Use cameras for enforcement
Limit signs for less visual clutter
Include shooters in advisory groups and encourage self-management
More signs – including horse trails
“Recommended” shooting areas
Better kiosk information
Not like Reiter Pit
Access to gate with keys – a check-out system

Feedback noted that the growing number of users needs more areas to recreate to avoid conflicts.

3. How does target shooting should be managed in this state forest complement or compete with other nearby recreation opportunities or businesses?

Horse riding is in conflict with the shooting
Expand horse camping opportunities because it's the only regional opportunity
Shooting does not compete with other shooting areas because DNR offers fewer restrictions and is less expensive
Old Skagit, Plantation Rifle Range, Skagit Shooting Range
ORVs and shooting would not be compatible
Tactical shooting (move and shoot) is only available on DNR-land
Some guns can't be used at other shooting range areas
Supports local economy/gun stores
Recycled shells provide revenue for people willing to go out and recycle
Increases fire danger when high
Noise is a detriment to Cowboy Camp and nearby home residents
Provides opportunity to complement other family education
Organize pit cleanups and provide more info
Ask users to help police their own areas

4. Do you have a specific location where you enjoy target shooting?

Old pits
Medford Pit
Diablo, Cumberland Mountain, South Fork of the Cascade all safer than Medford Pit
North Fork, Darrington, Phinney
Survey the rest of the forest – not just pits
Van Dyke area is not good for shooting
Remove gates
Add more areas

5. What type of shooting are you hoping to do?

All
Safe
Long-range – 1000 yards
Tactical shooting Shoot-n-Move
Skeet
Targets other than paper steel
Rapid-fire
Competition shooting
Archery
Designated lanes with beginner areas - 25 yards
Rifle area – 100 yards

6. What sort of amenities should a shooting area have?

Dumpsters
Trash cans - not dumpsters
Volunteer clean-ups
Use juvenile offenders/inmates for cleanups
Use funding allocated fairly in balance with other recreation interests to provide amenities
Increase enforcement
Toilets
Located other than in a “pit” or “bowl”
Firing lines and 10 designated shooting stations
Method to cease shooting
Facilities for shells
Covered tables
Use Discover Pass funding to provide amenities
Parking
Signs
Kiosk information board as you access the pit
Cover shooting area
Benches
Clearly marked boundaries
No trails
Berms-see Custer Sporting Club for example
Target stands
Access resources provided by NRA
Create a rustic shooting area-See Okanogan and Tonasket for examples
Keep it Simple

7. What other information do we need?

Work with the NRA – don’t reinvent the wheel

See Custer Club for a good example
Attend gun show to seek feedback
Users don't want to go to designated areas
We need to reopen closed areas 2 and remove gates to provide greater access
Look at other landscapes for alternate areas to spread out the use
Deeper pits that should be
Look at options for horse trails
Sandy material
Hay bales
Maps with designated shooting areas and other recreation trails
Approach local high schools for volunteers
DNR liability – make sure DNR is covered

8. How would you like to receive information about the next step of this process?

Website - and keep it up-to-date
Local papers - media
Develop App for notification and wildfires
Facebook
Emails
On-site signs
Fliers at shops like Lymann
Share with other organized groups
Social media
Message boards
Contact Discover Pass holders

Unique comments not covered above that came from written submissions:

Build a hosted campground next to the pit
No changes
There are no problems
Have certain days closed to target shooting