DNR Recreation - Tahuya State Forest Target Shooting Meeting
May 17, 2016
Community Feedback

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

   **Negative**
   - Noise (during late night hours, from automatic weapons, and near residences)
   - Unsafe shooting across the river near Hurd Road and residences
   - Being pushed out of areas where they have traditionally practiced target shooting
   - Primitive shooting locations
   - Shooting guns with headphones on (unsafe)
   - Limited local knowledge – people don’t know where to go
   - Garbage left behind
   - Lack of signage
   - Rules are not clear, uncertainty about distance for shooting
   - Conflicts between target shooters and 4x4 trail users - T55 trail
   - Having to walk far due to closed gates (Shoefly Pit)
   - Limited law enforcement
   - Skeet shooting debris left behind in clear-cut areas (I.9 trail)
   - Signs shot up
   - Safety for people in woods (brush pickers)
   - Shooting down roads and trails
   - Shooting across clear cuts
   - Don’t know where trails are – or that they’re there
   - Navy men and women unfamiliar with the area don’t know where to shoot
   - Don’t know the forest habitat

   **Positive**
   - Dispersed target shooting areas are cleaner than pit sites and responsible users leave them cleaner than they were found
   - There are existing recreation clubs that could help with the situation

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

   - A larger number of informal pits should be available – capable of serving 50 to 100 yards
   - One managed range/designated area 2x
   - No shooting in the Tahuya
   - Put in a gate at night
   - Make a site club-based and managed with the help of volunteers 2x
   - Location should be accessible for sheriff and emergency response
   - Regular clean-up
   - Walk in areas could prevent garbage dumping
   - Other users should be restricted for the area
Emphasis patrols
Provide maps, information and signs
Budget to do it right
Involve the NRA
No extra fees
Long distance shooting
Not in West Tahuya
Not in Green Mountain
DNR needs to manage lead and liability
Create options for parking
Scheduling opportunities for hunter safety classes

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

Bring in money to the community and local businesses
Enhance the forest experience for other users
Longer distances than available commercially complement commercial shooting
Would not compete with other clubs – Kitsap Rife and Revolver Club and Bremerton Trap and Skeet
Target shooting could impact nearby campgrounds

4. Is Green Mountain State Forest appropriate for target shooting?

Not good because the Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club is next door
Onion Pit could be a good location
High use for horses and hikers so leave as-is
No problems here with shooters.
Yes – if a safe place can be found and shared
Not really, but analyze
Would conflict with the primary recreation objectives of the recreation plan

5. What other information do we need?

What can we do to build it correctly and sustainably?
What can we do about noise and traffic from tourists?
More accessible and timely information
Area-specific site information online
Maps - Overlay of other recreation and shooting areas on-site and online
Look at development changes – growth patterns
Topography
Education and getting information out
Capacity – who and how many people are we serving
Who monitors the sites?
Fire restrictions and shooting
SEPA and permits – are they needed?

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

   - Facebook, email, mailing list (including PO boxes)
   - Ads in Kitsap papers
   - Signs at shooting sites
   - Kiosks on site
   - Webpage-make shooting information easy to “google”
   - From elected officials
   - At gun forums
   - From clubs
   - From gun shops
   - More education to naval base
   - City reader boards

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

   - Hurd Road
   - Kitsap Rifle Range
   - Somewhere safe
   - Sand Hill Pit
   - Across from Sand Hill staging area
   - Elfendal Pass
   - Belfair/Tahuya Bowl
   - Near 4x4 trails
   - Bear Creek
   - Dewatto Road

8. **What type of shooting are you hoping to do?**

   - Pistol
   - Shotgun
   - Rifle
   - 9MM
   - 25 and 50-yard handgun
   - 1000 meter
   - Siting and hunting (200 yards)
   - Using permanent steal targets

   Sites were suggested at 5-10 acres per location with rifle areas separated from handgun areas by using dirt burns.

9. **What sort of amenities should a shooting area have?**
Bathroom (vaulted toilet)
Garbage and recycling
Signs
Tall berm or backstop
Covered benches
Handicap access
Cell phone access
Access for emergency vehicles
Host sites
Amenities like a community center
Should be very remote
Pack-in/pack-out

Feedback noted that fewer amenities would reduce vandalism issues.

Unique comments not covered above that came from written submissions:

Keep it the same – dispersed
Not too many rules or nobody will comply
Other DNR lands should be considered for this activity
Not enough Sheriffs to handle this activity
Quality of life for nearby residents is negatively impacted by target shooting
Negative impact on wildlife
Undesignated trails create safety hazards