



Robert and Patricia Meinert  
(address redacted, ws)

September 13, 2014

To: Jennifer Eberlein, Forest Superintendent meeting September 16, 2014

**RE: Unsafe illegal shooting on USDA forest land in the White River Valley for years is an intensifying public safety problem that now necessitates emergency closure prohibiting all recreational shooting.**

It is with disappointed that I am unable to attend this very important meeting. Of all the days to select, I have two important appointments scheduled for September 16 which are each difficult to reschedule. Consequently I am writing this letter to feel a presence in supporting a ban of shooting in the White River Valley.

I moved to the White River Valley 12 years ago. Incidents of shooting have increased in the Valley over those 12 years. In the past few years, these incidents have become frightening. Most recently, almost daily shootings surrounding our home create a complete absence of personal safety. Every weekend, we wince with fear at the possibility of another life threatening shooting near our home.

On August 24, 2014 those fears became a reality. The peace was not only broken by regular weekend shooting noise, but this time one or all of us could have been seriously injured or killed. Not only once, but four times the ear splitting sound of semi-automatic gunfire immediately proceeded bullets whizzing by and hitting the surrounding trees on our property. Visiting with our neighbors on our front porch, the four of us ran for cover inside of our home fearing for our lives. As the neighbors retreated to their own home, our fears for our safety caused us to feel threatened and continue to run for cover with each subsequent episode throughout the afternoon.

My husband reported the first 3 shootings and subsequent bullets hitting our property to 911. They asked if it sounded like anyone was injured. Of course he replied we were lucky it was not us. The third time he reported the shootings, reminding the operator it was his third call, she asked my husband what action he was requesting. Of course, he explained he would like someone to find the shooters. But he finally agreed to at least, receive a call from law enforcement. That call never came.

We also reported the shootings to our community manager who forwarded our concern to Wendy Scholl. Wendy and others continue working on preventative measures. However, it is obvious that preventative measures are not keeping my husband and me safe. This kind of dangerous ignorant shooting causes risk to anyone in the White River Valley and must be STOPPED NOW!

A week later Jeff McIntosh, the over stretched ranger for our area, paid us a visit. However, he was unaware of our calls to 911. To my horror, he explained that the bullets could have as easily hit one of us as they had blasted into our surrounding trees. Obviously, our concern for our personal safety

is critical from now on. In fact the minute I now hear shooting, I stop what I am doing outdoors my home and retreat to the inside.

Now we find out that our neighbor, whose home is slightly higher in elevation from our home, had a bullet pierce his window from that shooting episode. Unlike us, this neighbor only uses his cabin periodically. He and his small children were spared the fearful life threatening outcome of such a shooting.

In sharing the frightening episode with a close friend from Enumclaw, she reported a similar incident while hiking in the Greenwater Lakes area earlier this summer. In fact, she explained they regularly hear gunfire and feel threatened while hiking in the surrounding area. She also reported coming across areas full of shooting trash along their hiking routes. They have moved their hiking to the National Park and avoid the National Forest.

Last weekend a similar day long shooting barrage occurred within plain earshot of several full time residents in our community. One time I counted 24 repeated blasts. Following this particular shooting a middle of the night group screaming and wailing episode awoke us repeatedly for 2 to 3 hours. It was clear to me and one friend I spoke to in the morning that the screaming was coming from the same auditory area the shooting had been heard throughout the previous day. As I conversed with my neighbors, we found that we all were afraid to be outside when we could hear shooting especially considering Robs and my previous life threatening experience. This fear is compounded because of the previous documented bullet events in our community.

We do fear that one of these bullets will eventually enter either our home or our person as previously experienced by other community members. Warnings to the shooters do not stopped the barrage of gunfire in the White River Valley. In fact, there has been an increase in both the frequency and intensity of gunfire. Regardless of the warnings, these shooters continue their ignorance of the fact that their random bullets threaten our lives.

I support of our community, I plead with you to prohibit recreational shooting on USDA Forest Service land in the White River Valley. As I write this letter, incessant shooting can be heard in the background. Even though I am inside my home, in my office located in the center of my house I fear a bullet may hit one of us or our property. I fear for my family, my neighbors, my friends who come to the area to hike and anyone in the White River Valley. Please protect us.

Sincerely,

PC Meinert

(phone # redacted, ws)

## **Life Threatening:**

September 12, 2014

Wendy Scholl

Dear Wendy,

I am pleased that you will finally get an audience with someone that can do something about the use of firearms in the 410 corridor. This is a problem for which a resolution is long over due!

I have been a homeowner in Crystal River Ranch since 2001. My family and I frequently use the trails in this area for mountain biking and hiking. While the shooting of firearms has always taken place in and around the area, it is becoming more prevalent, particularly in the past couple of years. Just this year I have experienced three incidences that caused me to hurry away from the area.

Most recently, I was riding along a trail that adjoins FS73. As I was approaching the road (perhaps 50 feet away), I heard a loud gunshot. The shot came from a vehicle that was driving up the road shooting from the window. I heard another shot a couple of minutes later further up the road.

Earlier this summer, I was on the White River trail, again mountain biking, when gunfire erupted nearby. I could not see the shooters but as I was turning around a couple of hikers approached from up river, walking fast to get out of the area. We did not spend much time talking as we were all in a hurry to leave, but they commented, "so much for being able to take a peaceful day hike".

This spring I was again riding near the same area when I encountered a group of shooters in a pullout by the river. They were shooting across the river, toward the trail on the other side. I tentatively approached to let them know about the trail that was on the other side of the river (where I had been headed) and it was clear that they had no clue about what was out of their field of vision.

It seems pretty obvious that it is just a matter of time before someone gets hurt. I sincerely hope that is not what it takes to put a stop to this reckless activity.

Sincerely,

William S. Hanneman

**Life Threatening: USDA personnel work stoppage due to recreational shooting:**

Wendy Scholl met and talked to Jeff Jones, Forest Service Timber Sale Administrator, from Darrington office 360-436-2308. He was at Alpine Drive bottom of FS 75 8/4/2014, 9:30am with a number of personnel getting ready to assess planned timber harvest up FS 75. Jana Carlson, FS Contracting Officer, Olympia office 360-956-2263, cell 360-485-7061 was also present.

Jeff Jones said his timber harvest assessment team in 2012 had to stop work due to flying bullets coming at them across the Greenwater River above from proximity of FS70 quarry pit.

Pete Sanda 360-480-2361 forest service out of Olympia office also confirmed the work stoppage.

.....

**Life Threatening: Commercial timber harvest multiple work stoppage 2012 due to recreational shooting:**

Wendy Scholl telecon 8/29/2014 11:45 am: Mike Malgarini, NW Renewable Energy, Enumclaw

2014 July: Sun Top logging, skidder totally inoperable from bullet damage. Cab shot up, fire extinguisher emptied inside cab and one of the large tires completely shredded.

2012 July / Aug: Contracted 2 man crew had to stop work for a day due to bullets whizzing by. Mike stated via phone 8/29 12 pm: **"The whole White Water drainage needs to be shut off to shooting."**

**Life Threatening:**

Paul McNabb, bullet came by his head injuring his hand. January 1, 2013 stray bullet in CV community Pierce County Sheriff case #13-002-0481 (<http://mynorthwest.com/?sid=2301732&nid=651>).

.....

**Life Threatening:**

Wendy Scholl, August 2011 riding bicycle on FS 70 road by the quarry shooting pit. Young man turns around takes a handgun from hood of car and directly points at me as I ride by. At FS 72 junction I turned around, memorized license plate, car model and description of him. Immediately went to Hwy 410 fire station and called 911 reporting incident. No law enforcement follow-up.

.....

**Life Threatening:**

Ken Bailey, (address redacted, ws) Crystal Village E, 1994 to 2009 home owner with wife, daughter and son. At least 3 incidents involving rapid fire 30 to 100 rounds of bullets overhead and next to home, family pinned inside at least 2 hours each incident. Called 911 two of these incidents and there was no law enforcement follow-up. He recalls at least 20 times very close shooting, random times, middle of the night. His father for many years Jim Bailey still resides in Crystal Village. He is X-Green Beret and can provide numerous life threatening and structural damage incidents.

.....

**Fatality:**

Father kills his son September 9, 2001 at FS 7000 USDA Forest Service quarry shooting site. (<http://community.seattletimes.nwsources.com/archive/?date=20010911&slug=shooting11m>) "...Pierce County sheriff's deputies call the gravel pit a menace."

**Wildfire:**

From: **Jim Harte** <email redacted ws>  
Date: Tue, Sep 16, 2014 at 8:08 AM  
To: Wendy Scholl <email redacted>

Good morning, Wendy. I am sorry to be getting back to you so late, but I have been quite swamped.

I am writing in regards to your recent inquiry about cause's of brush fires in the Greenwater area. As you know, we do our best to attack these fires when there small to prevent their growth into major, community threatening fires. Since these are small vegetation fires, no large and thorough investigations are done on them. In the last two years, in my estimation, I would say three to four of these fires appear to have been started by target shooting. This surmise is taken by the fact of shells and casings littering the area, as well as the location of the fire in relation to the area.

James Harte, Station Captain and Commissioner PCFD-26

.....  
**Wildfire:**

About 10 acres: Forest fire September 2009 within 2 miles of CRR community caused by two shooters using incendiary devices as targets on a wood slag pile.

Several 100 acres: Paul Sowers, Fire Chief, 360-663-0146, cell 360-280-7095 recalls a significant wildfire started by target shooters within the last 6years. Suggested I contact Charlie Burns, DNR Enumclaw office for details on the other recent fires caused by target shooters.

## Life Threatening: At Greenwater Lakes Trailhead

Paul Cooke, CRR property owner (NRA member) posted this 9/1/2014 on SeattleGuns.net. It is a popular forum site for gun enthusiasts. He is referring to Sunday 8/31/2014 when he and Wendy Scholl were out determining location (high ridge FS7013) where bullets came from regarding Meinert 8/24/2014 life threatening incident.

---

I was out with Swen yesterday picking up litter in some locations - off of a spot on the 7013 and another off SF70. I have a cabin in the same neighborhood as Swen, and we were cleaning up trash from shooters while assessing where the bullets were coming from that had been ripping through the trees above a friend's home in our neighborhood last weekend. I would much rather have been hiking, mountain biking, or shooting than picking up garbage and figuring out where stray bullets were originating.

Also, just to clarify, Swen isn't an anti, and has specifically done handgun training with a military ordnance officer in the gravel pit above the FS 70 main pit.

The problem we are having - for our neighborhood specifically - is that people are shooting at targets they've set up on the top of berms that overlook our neighborhood, i.e. they are shooting rifles at targets without a backstop. For us that means they are dropping bullets into the forest below, which happens to be a neighborhood with more than 300 home sites in it. Crystal River Ranch is one of several neighborhoods along Highway 410 between Greenwater and Crystal Mountain Boulevard, and there are several hundred more homes in the woods along that stretch of 410 too.

When Swen and I were at the upper pit (off FS72) (above the main pit on FS 70) I was appalled at the level of the filth there - it looked like a garbage dump from some third world hell-hole. The thing was an absolute s\*\*thole of trash, specifically shotgun casings. There were thousands and thousands of them on the ground. I've never seen anything like it (and I'm white trash that lived in a single wide in north Idaho, so I've seen filth and squalor). While we were there 3 people from the Issaquah area showed up to shoot (the dad had a gorgeous new Benelli M4 he was going to christen). In talking with him he told us he had gone hiking earlier this year to the Greenwater Lakes (further up FS 70), and had to take cover while walking to the trailhead because shooters from a campsite near the entrance to the trailhead parking lot were shooting from their campsite through the woods, and were putting rounds across the road leading to the Greenwater Lakes trailhead.

Yes, Pablo, there are some seriously stupid people shooting up there. Yes, GunTrader, I don't trust the antis either - they are more than willing to lie to justify their goal of disarming the public. Yes, dgindsperger, the basic rules of shooting are not magic, but somehow all logic seems to escape FS 70 shooters when they want to discharge a weapon. They all of the sudden become like a sex-crazed animal that can't wait to discharge its load (excuse the vulgar analogy, but it fits). And, unfortunately, mediumrarechicken, broadcasting through a bull horn to a location more than a mile through the forest to a ridge from which people are raining bullets into a neighborhood is not going to be heard by them at that distance (based on the Jack Daniel's bottle and beer bottles they left I don't recon they would hear much of anything).

All this is to say I want to see shooting continue to be available in the Greenwater area, but the problem with the moronic minority of irresponsible shooters in the FS 70 area is jeopardizing that for all of us. Hell, last week Swen and another witness saw two morons literally shooting

between Forest Service "No Shooting" signs on FS 70 (just below the the big pit), and the shooters, when confronted, said they didn't think the regulation applied to their weapons. WTF? This is just unbelievable. And, by the way, this crap occurring on the FS 70 is just the tip of the iceberg. A mountain biker on FS 73 last weekend was passed by a vehicle shooting out the windows of their rig, and a logging firm in the vicinity had a vehicle so vandalized with bullets that it was rendered inoperable, etc. And that, plus the people running for cover in Crystal River Ranch, are just the issues from one weekend.

So, whatever any of you can do to increase the level of shooter responsibility in the Greenwater area will benefit all of us who want to continue to shoot there. I90 has been shut down to shooting. That has channeled a lot of shooters to the north and south of the I90 corridor. Idiotic behavior in the Greenwater area has the potential to shut down shooting temporarily, and possibly permanently.

---

### **Propane Tank Shooting Incident:**

From: **Wendy Scholl** <email redacted, ws>  
Date: Tue, Sep 2, 2014 at 11:31 AM  
Subject: Fwd: FS7013 9/1  
To: Paul Cooke <email redacted, ws>

Paul,

(intro redacted, ws)

BTW, I spent yesterday afternoon checking FS72 and bagging up debris at the shoot locations below the FS7013 ridge point, i.e. not far from the open gate. I did post two of my signs up at the ridge site (1st, 2nd attachment).

About 3pm I heard a sizable explosion, got in the truck and headed down to the lower shooting area of FS7013. Someone had shot a propane tank (typical barbecue size) and all 5 groups of shooters were mostly grinning, pointing and commenting that it did not explode. I walked up to the closest two groups across from the tank, smiled and said I'd really like the tank. Shooting stopped and one guy went out and retrieved it for me. I do know conditions have to be just right for there to be flame ignition when a propane tank is pierced. Successive bullets fired hitting the tank, spark into the escaping propane with the right mix of oxygen might ignite. The tank was still spewing propane when the guy handed it to me. Who knows how many other shooters would have continued firing at it. The initial bullet indent measures 1 inch diameter. Nope, I was not comfortable remaining there with all those attentive guys and their guns so, I did not capture profile details, take pictures or inquire who was responsible.

Also reference the last attached photo. You and I on Sunday 8/31 missed a heavy large steel plate 1/4" thick 21" wide at the FS7013 ridge point. Yesterday I found it slightly



below the edge of the first berm. Hmm, maybe this had been closer to the top of the berm where they were shooting toward our residences below the ridge.

**Structural Damage:**

CRR community recreational room window shot June 16, 2012 from USDA Forest Service road 7013 high ridge point. Caliber .223 bullet blew out window, ricocheted off floor traveling 20+ feet embedding in far wall. Teresa Steel, Community Treasurer, long-time resident was in garden area not far from angle of bullet. Less than two minutes video surveillance recording showed an adult man and boy entering the recreational room along the bullet path, case #12-170-0207.



**Structural Damage:**

Qwest, when Century Link: DSL fiber link junction box shot inoperable. Exceeded \$10,000 to replace, outage 4+ days. Qwest engineer informed me this incident one reason Qwest has delayed DSL improvement investment in area.



**Structural Damage:**

Hot tub cover pierced by bullet at Brian and Sandy Miller's residence within a few hours of family members getting out of the hot tub. They still have bullet.



**Structural Damage:**

From: **lee.anderson** <email redacted, ws>  
Date: Mon, Jul 8, 2013 at 6:24 AM  
To: Wendy Scholl <email redacted, ws>

Just to keep you in the loop-we found several bullet holes in the bear this weekend. We haven't been up in a while, so don't know when this took place. However, it is clear that this was not from target shooting. It appears that a couple of the shots came from a car on Alpine and one would have come close to or hit the cabin had the shot not hit the bear. Feel free to go have a look.

Lee T. Anderson  
(address redacted, ws)

**Wildlife:**

Elk illegally shot September 8, 2012 in CRR community sheriff restricted “No Shoot Zone”. Shot fired in direct line of site less than 30 feet of S. Lewis residence. Shooter fired from within his vehicle. He did not have an elk hunting tag and had reached across his son to fire.

.....

**Wildlife:**

John and Cheryl Ford, ~2009 mountain biking FS73 spur road encounter men shooting at spawning fish in Huckleberry Creek.

.....

**Environment Damage:**



**Debris – Numerous Locations:**

