

Problem: Illegal and Unsafe Recreational Shooting
USDA National Forest Service Land White River Valley Greenwater WA

Disclaimer: Not anti – gun. Safe, responsible hunting is completely acceptable in appropriate forest areas.

The dimensions of the problem—

Local recreational (target) shooting is on the increase. Driven by:

1. I-90 corridor majority of forest service roads closed to recreational shooting May 10, 2011
2. Hancock Forest Management January 2011 requires permit to access Muckleshoot land, numerous posted signs
3. Firearm sales historic high. Washington State 2012 (519,209) increase of 24% compared to 2011 (394,410). Understated, as this data from WA state firearm purchase background applications.
4. NF 7400 road gate remains closed since November 2006 due to erosion event damaging road. Twenty mile plus area frequented for decades by recreational shooters inaccessible.

Public safety / structural damage / forest damage / wildlife poaching / work stopped / equipment damage:

1. Life threatening August 24, 2014: <http://crystalriverranch.org/local-shooting-topic-921-4-pm/>
2. Hazard waste level Nov 2014 at FS70 shooting pit location. Tested soil has heavy metal lead, 3020 ppm which is above EPA high risk level. Mercury, Beryllium, Antimony and Thallium also at high pollutant levels (.16 mi / 300' elev. of Greenwater River).
3. NW Renewable Energy, M.Malgarini, bmmalgarinia@nregrp.com July 2014 Skidder equipment inoperable Sun Top area, June 2012 timber crew work stopped two days, life threatening bullets, Greenwater River area.
4. Bodily harm January 1, 2013 case #13-002-0481: <http://mynorthwest.com/?sid=2301732&nid=651>
5. Structural damage June 16, 2012 #12-170-0207: Remington .223 round came directly through Crystal River Ranch (CRR) community recreation room window 1:24 pm. It ricocheted off the floor, went 20+ feet and embedded in far wall. Shooting location determined to be high East Ridge FS 7013. Note: Numerous structures hit by bullets. Majority of incidents are not reported.
6. Forest fire September 9, 2001 within 1.5 miles of CRR caused by two shooters using incendiary devices as targets. Two days to control fire.
7. Two elk carcasses September 2014 on FS 74 from night poaching. Bull elk shot in CRR sheriff restricted no shoot zone September 8, 2012 thirty feet in front of S.Lewis, Mountainside Drive residence.
8. Father kills son September 9, 2001 at FS 7000 Forest Service quarry shooting site. <http://community.seattletimes.nwsources.com/archive/?date=20010911&slug=shooting11m>

Innumerable events of illegal behavior and countless debris strewn shooting locations

1. Blatant violations of the law, e.g. drinking, multiple wildfires sourced to incendiary targets.
2. Lack of awareness of the law, e.g. WAC 332-52-145 “unobstructed earthen backdrop”.
3. Lack of awareness of potential impact / gravity of certain shooting locations, e.g. communities in range, maximum distance of ammunition, firefighting difficulty from incendiary targets igniting.
4. Lack of protection for our communities from existing laws.

Lack of law enforcement

1. Full time Forest Service Enumclaw based law enforcement officer (LEO) position budget cut 2011.
2. Mt. Baker Snoqualmie prior to 2011 had five LEO's, now four.
3. Despite ongoing and overt illegal activity no evidence of fines, recent arrests or convictions.
4. No cell phone coverage in much of White River Valley results in majority of incidents not being reported.

Conclusions: Insufficient enforcement resources with no future increased capacity or response improvements in budget. Non-existent 911 dispatch / follow-up enforcement on shooting incidents. USDA NFS enables violation of federal laws by “wreckreational” shooters. Public safety and unconstrained resource damage necessitates emergency closure prohibiting all recreational shooting on Mt. Baker Snoqualmie USDA Forest Service land in the White River Valley.