

**Problem: Out of Control Illegal, Unsafe, Destructive Recreational Shooting
USDA National Forest Service (NFS) Land White River Valley (WRV) Greenwater WA**

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

Dimensions of the problem — Increased public risk and destructive recreational target shooting. Driven by:

1. Hancock Forest Management 1/2011 establishes permit to access Muckleshoot land, more gates, no shoot signs.
2. Firearm sales historic high. WA State 2012 (519,209) increase of 24% compared to 2011 (394,410). Understated, as this data from WA licensed retail firearm purchase background apps. Trade shows and on-line purchases not included.
3. FS7400 road gate remains closed since 11/2006 due to erosion event damaging road. Twenty mile plus area frequented for decades by recreational shooters inaccessible.
4. Social media sites last few years NFS shoot locations identified and shooting experiences posted, YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71rdWUPJEYI>) <http://hunting-washington.com/>, <http://seattleguns.net>

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

1. Five bullets found 4/2015 – 7/7/2015 in different community property locations discharged from adjacent NFS road perimeter shooting sites. Sixth 8/6/2015 discovered CRR community bullet damaged house siding (Prusi on Alpine Way).
2. Life threatening 8/24/2014: <http://crystalriverranch.org/local-shooting-topic-921-4-pm/>
3. Hazard toxic lead level at shooting pit locations. 2014 FS70 and 2015 FS72 tested soil fines heavy metal lead, 16,000+ ppm above EPA 2,000 ppm mandatory clean-up level. Shooting pits .16 mile distance, 300' elevation of Greenwater River. Endangered Species Act (ESA) threatened Chinook salmon and historic presence of endangered Bull trout – Greenwater River.
4. NW Renewable Energy, M.Margarini, bmmargarinia@nregrp.com 7/2014 Skidder equipment inoperable Sun Top area, 6/2012 timber crew work stopped two days, life threatening bullets, Greenwater River area.
5. Bullet whizzed by head–thumb injury 1/1/2013 case #13-002-0481: <http://mynorthwest.com/?sid=2301732&nid=651>
6. Structural damage 6/16/2012 case #12-170-0207: Remington .223 round came directly through Crystal River Ranch (CRR) community recreation room window 1:24 pm. It ricocheted off 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 not reported due to unreliable signal coverage.
7. 6/2015 fire set in abandoned vehicle at FS 72 shooting pit by suspected target shooters. Forest fire 9/9/2001 within 1.5 miles of CRR reported by 2 shooters on FS 75 using incendiary targets on wood debris. Extinguishing fire = 2 days.
8. Poached young elk carcass 6/2015 on FS 7013. Two elk carcasses 9/2014 on FS 74 night poaching. Bull elk shot in CRR restricted no shoot zone 9/8/2012 thirty feet in front of Mountainside Drive residence.
9. Father kills son 9/9/2001 at FS 7000 Forest Service quarry shooting site.
<http://community.seattletimes.nwsources.com/archive/?date=20010911&slug=shooting11m>

Uncountable events of illegal behavior. Resources destroyed, trigger trash strewn 60+ shooting locations —

1. Blatant violations of the law, purposeful destruction, e.g. 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 shooting activity, e.g. communities in range, lethal distance of ammunition, trees, vegetation, wildfire destruction, volunteer fire-fighting challenge, unreliable cell signal coverage.

Lack of law enforcement —

1. Years of inadequate law enforcement protection for our communities enforcing existing laws.
2. Full time Forest Service Enumclaw based law enforcement officer (LEO) position budget cut 2011. 5 LEOs, now 4.
3. Despite citizen monitoring and reporting overt illegal activity no evidence follow-up, recent arrests or convictions.
4. Majority of incidents not reported due to lack of emergency communication coverage in White River Valley.

Conclusions — Insufficient enforcement, no coverage or response improvement. No 911 dispatch / follow-up enforcement on shooting incidents unless medical emergency. NFS enables violation of federal laws by too many unsafe destructive shooters. Unsafe destructive shooting totally unacceptable on Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NFS land in the White River Valley. Escalating target shooting activity must be reset to provide public safety and stop resource destruction.