

Overview Aspects of the White River Valley Shooting Problem

wscholl October 2015

- I. Unsafe / Illegal**
 - A. No earthen backstop, using and destroying vegetation / trees as target mounts
 - B. Shooting across and/or down roads, tributaries, hiking trails and numerous unsafe forest locations
 - C. Flammable / incendiary targets – fuel tanks, aerosol cans, manufactured exploding targets
 - D. Drinking while shooting
- II. Enforcement – Law Enforcement Officer (LEO)**
 - A. Inadequate coverage, budget reductions, citizen monitoring and reporting = no follow-up
 - B. Cross jurisdictional enforcement issues (NFS land, DNR land, National Park land, Private land, Tribal land)
 - C. No NFS budget to pay “Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement” for 911 dispatch communication to NFS LEO on reported incidents at least 3 years. Shooting incidents = no 911, unless medical emergency.
 - D. Majority of illegal shooting behavior = misdemeanor, rare in Pierce County to prosecute misdemeanors
- III. Public safety risk**
 - A. Communities (close drive access to sites including long road sections in range)
 - B. 60+ unsafe sites in range of campers, hikers, cyclists, fishermen, (other recreational users)
 - C. Blocking or close the drive in access to risk sites minimal by NFS - more required (FS7013, FS72, FS73, NF-010, FS75)
- IV. Resource destruction – natural, private and commercial – costly clean-up, replacement, repair**
 - A. Vegetation destruction (trees shot down), wildfire (flammable targets, popular steel bullets can cause fire)
 - B. Heavy metal lead beyond EPA mandatory toxic clean-up level at historic shooting pits
 - C. Non-decomposing trigger trash (TV's, computers, heaters, refrigerators, microwaves, glass, metal, cars, etc.)
- V. Shooting incident data lacking, inconsistent, not shared between enforcement and fire fighting entities**
 - A. Unreliable emergency communication cell signal – majority of incidents unreported
 - B. 3 fire-fighting entities (FD#26, NFS, DNR), 4 law enforcement entities (PC Sheriff, Wa state patrol, NFS, DNR)
- VI. Recreational bad behaving target shooting activity over running and thwarting other recreational users**
 - A. Reduced NFS use by campers, hikers, cyclists, fishermen, horseback riders, hunters, mushroom foragers, etc.
 - B. Sounds like a war zone
 - C. Visually hideous trigger trash
- VII. Education not required of recreational target (sport) shooters**
 - A. Lack of regulations knowledge, safe firearm use, ammunition distance, shooting location proximity to camp sites, trails, communities, etc.
 - B. Rare that unsafe shooters connected to responsible shooters nor are unsafe ones education motivated
- VIII. Problem growth**
 - A. Increased population in metropolitan proximity areas
 - B. Hancock / Muckleshoot established access land permit, installed more gates, posted abundance of signs
 - C. Firearm sales historic high 2012 and 2013 in Wa state
 - D. Social media – multiple sites with posted Greenwater shoot experience, shoot locations, YouTube videos
- IX. Posted signs typically destroyed within 48 hours to 90 days**
 - A. NFS signs ineffective, as too many shooters ignore them
 - B. Pierce County firearm commission 2007 (24 signs) visually small and not authorized installation on NFS land
- X. Political**
 - A. NFS lack of resources to communicate or effectively improve public safety, protect resources and/or work with NRA, other gun enthusiast groups (SeattleGuns.net, Hunting-washington.com, WaGuns.org)
 - B. Common public land activity for decades, but bad behaving shooter numbers / incidents continue escalating
 - C. Circle of money flows from gun organizations, political lobbyists and activities to federal agencies and back
- XI. Federal / State / County / NFS firearm regulation violations unless bodily harm = misdemeanor**
 - A. WA Pre-emption Statute to federal level laws ties or politically dictates state / county firearm regulations