

DNR Recreation - Yacolt Burn State Forest Target Shooting Meeting
May 31, 2016
Community Feedback

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

Negative

Topography does not allow
ATVs have limited the space available
Picking up trash
Tarbell Trailhead is unsafe for target shooting
Tannerite starts fires
Lack of site management
Good shooting areas blocked by gates
Process for changing access isn't open to the public
Law enforcement access is too thin
People need more safety
Multi-use issues with shooting at rock pit
Need to let people know where to go
Close calls
Late-night shooting
Shooting in hard rock pit bounces
Educate non-shooters on noise and etiquette
Open closed road areas for shooting
Discover Pass has limited access
Grey area in rules on skeet shooting
Open forum for complaints
Problem people not represented at meeting

Positive

Places to shoot safely
Increase shooter education
It's fun
Bonding with family
Practice is key to safety
Some target shooters are great people
Affordable access to target shooting
The forested environment

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

More law enforcement
Exclude recreationists from designated areas

Safe designated areas, not just pits
Work with volunteers to help manage, such as Forest Watch
Manage target shooting as a recreation use
Sign open areas for target shooting
Parking - Enough room for 20 vehicles
"Recommended" areas
Take target shooting into account when building trails
Start with small changes before making big changes
Incorporate larger-scale landscapes in target shooting areas
Distribute information – maps etc.
See Pima County for examples on how they've worked on this issue
Publicize phone numbers for who to call about issues
Planning for this should work in tandem with recreation planning
Year-round access

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

Not enough spots to meet the need
Camp Bonneville not DNR would be an option, but isn't open now
Would complement businesses such as Clark Rifles, Sportsman Warehouse
Conflicts with other recreation opportunities
Lack of education to new gun owners
Good for local businesses Mount Hood is an example
Educate both gun shooters and other users
OR visitors are coming to WA to shoot
Opportunity to increase recreation opportunities with enhanced comfort
Private areas are being closed – pushing people to DNR lands

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

Arrowhead
Upper Washougal
Jackson Pass pit
L-1100
1400 - Spurs on Rossen Road
Limited – most sites can only take a few
Good locations are overused
Excess garbage
Clark Rifle – 5 year waiting list
Deer pen
Outer perimeter
1410 line
Big Momma pit

5. What type of shooting are you hoping to do?

70% short range, 30% long-range

Move-n-Shoot

Less than 100 yards for families and beginners

25-50 yards for pistols

300-1000 yard locations for long-distance users

Multiple weapons per trip – don't want to have to go to different places

Trap, clay, and air-born targets

Paint gun

Variety of options: 50-100, 35, 100-200

More than paper target options

As it works with the landscape

Some space that's more private and away from others. Shooting in front of an audience can be intimidating, particularly for people who are just learning

6. What sort of amenities should a shooting area have?

Designated targets and firing lines

Garbage and trash bags

Bathrooms

Parking

Shooting benches

Gun cleaning stations

Flat backstop

Competitive area

Range boundary signs

Distance markers

As close as possible to town

Signs

Maps

No lights

Max of 15 people per site with a timing system

Adopt-A-Site 2x

Educational information

Varying lengths 2-25, 300 yards

Set up a reward system

Trail cameras

7. What other information do we need?

Notification of new areas

Tempers and etiquette

Reasons why areas are closed such as active logging
Don't change.
Info on shooting when a Discover Pass is purchased
GPS map on target shooting in state lands
A list of the organized shooting groups
Online class video
Clear rules
More enforcement on state lands
Info at local shops for all users of all recreation types
Don't change, but good to talk about it
More volunteers to help us get the info out
State agencies have different rules, but they should be the same
Consistent ways to provide feedback on issues, including photos on issues
Change isn't needed, but it was good to talk about it

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

Facebook
Email
Website
Local paper
Kiosks
Booth at guns shows
Pocket Ranger app like Parks Department
Be transparent

Unique comments not covered above that came from written submissions:

Better signage of DNR property lines
"Recommended" areas vs. designated
Make recommended areas but keep rest open
Signs on how to manage behavior at a site
Facebook users group
Permit for shooting
Please keep three logs under Jackson pit to block ORVs
Keep it simple
Tired of government interference and losing gun rights