

**DNR Recreation - Tahuya State Forest Target Shooting Meeting**  
**May 17, 2016**  
**Community Feedback**

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

**Negative**

Noise (during late night hours, from automatic weapons, and near residences)  
Unsafe shooting across the river near Hurd Road and residences  
Being pushed out of areas where they have traditionally practiced target shooting  
Primitive shooting locations  
Shooting guns with headphones on (unsafe)  
Limited local knowledge – people don't know where to go  
Garbage left behind  
Lack of signage  
Rules are not clear, uncertainty about distance for shooting  
Conflicts between target shooters and 4x4 trail users - T55 trail  
Having to walk far due to closed gates (Shoefly Pit)  
Limited law enforcement  
Skeet shooting debris left behind in clear-cut areas (I.9 trail)  
Signs shot up  
Safety for people in woods (brush pickers)  
Shooting down roads and trails  
Shooting across clear cuts  
Don't know where trails are – or that they're there  
Navy men and women unfamiliar with the area don't know where to shoot  
Don't know the forest habitat

**Positive**

Dispersed target shooting areas are cleaner than pit sites and responsible users leave them cleaner than they were found  
There are existing recreation clubs that could help with the situation

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

A larger number of informal pits should be available – capable of serving 50 to 100 yards  
One managed range/designated area 2x  
No shooting in the Tahuya  
Put in a gate at night  
Make a site club-based and managed with the help of volunteers 2x  
Location should be accessible for sheriff and emergency response  
Regular clean-up  
Walk in areas could prevent garbage dumping  
Other users should be restricted for the area

Emphasis patrols  
Provide maps, information and signs  
Budget to do it right  
Involve the NRA  
No extra fees  
Long distance shooting  
Not in West Tahuya  
Not in Green Mountain  
DNR needs to manage lead and liability  
Create options for parking  
Scheduling opportunities for hunter safety classes

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

Bring in money to the community and local businesses  
Enhance the forest experience for other users  
Longer distances than available commercially complement commercial shooting  
Would not compete with other clubs – Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club and Bremerton Trap and Skeet  
Target shooting could impact nearby campgrounds

**4. Is Green Mountain State Forest appropriate for target shooting?**

Not good because the Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club is next door  
Onion Pit could be a good location  
High use for horses and hikers so leave as-is  
No problems here with shooters.  
Yes – if a safe place can be found and shared  
Not really, but analyze  
Would conflict with the primary recreation objectives of the recreation plan

**5. What other information do we need?**

What can we do to build it correctly and sustainably?  
What can we do about noise and traffic from tourists?  
More accessible and timely information  
Area-specific site information online  
Maps - Overlay of other recreation and shooting areas on-site and online  
Look at development changes – growth patterns  
Topography  
Education and getting information out  
Capacity – who and how many people are we serving  
Who monitors the sites?  
Fire restrictions and shooting

SEPA and permits – are they needed?

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

Facebook, email, mailing list (including PO boxes)  
Ads in Kitsap papers  
Signs at shooting sites  
Kiosks on site  
Webpage-make shooting information easy to “google”  
From elected officials  
At gun forums  
From clubs  
From gun shops  
More education to naval base  
City reader boards

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

Hurd Road  
Kitsap Rifle Range  
Somewhere safe  
Sand Hill Pit  
Across from Sand Hill staging area  
Elfendal Pass  
Belfair/Tahuya Bowl  
Near 4x4 trails  
Bear Creek  
Dewatto Road

**8. What type of shooting are you hoping to do?**

Pistol  
Shotgun  
Rifle  
9MM  
25 and 50-yard handgun  
1000 meter  
Siting and hunting (200 yards)  
Using permanent steel targets

Sites were suggested at 5-10 acres per location with rifle areas separated from handgun areas by using dirt burns.

**9. What sort of amenities should a shooting area have?**

Bathroom (vaulted toilet)  
Garbage and recycling  
Signs  
Tall berm or backstop  
Covered benches  
Handicap access  
Cell phone access  
Access for emergency vehicles  
Host sites  
Amenities like a community center  
Should be very remote  
Pack-in/pack-out

Feedback noted that fewer amenities would reduce vandalism issues.

**Unique comments not covered above that came from written submissions:**

Keep it the same – dispersed  
Not too many rules or nobody will comply  
Other DNR lands should be considered for this activity  
Not enough Sheriffs to handle this activity  
Quality of life for nearby residents is negatively impacted by target shooting  
Negative impact on wildlife  
Undesignated trails create safety hazards