



DATE: July 26, 2025

TO: USFS Snoqualmie Ranger District

FROM: White River FPA

SUBJECT: 2nd Quarter 2025 Report & Hours

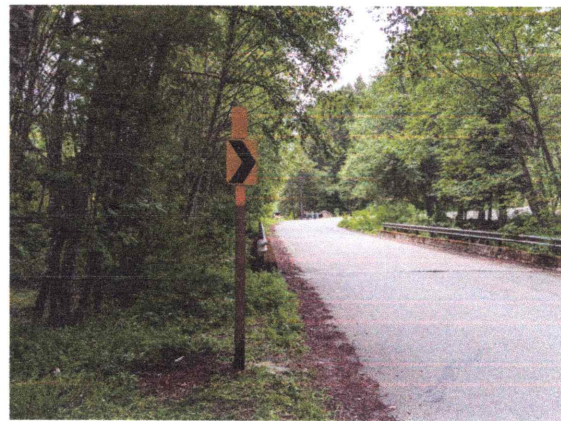
Organizational Issues

Our group now has a website back up and running at whiteriverforest.org, which features our basic message, photos, reports, and other information for making donations.

We have raised funds that have helped purchase USFS signs, as their funding has been cut due to government budget constraints. We have also assisted in purchasing equipment to keep their excavator running, along with maintenance tools for that piece of machinery.

Forest Report

We undertook numerous projects this quarter. One was proper signage on the FS 70 road at 28 Mile Creek, where the road takes a sharp right-hand turn. This has been the scene of many accidents, as the road appears to be straight, and some people do not notice it until they run off the road and into the restrooms. The Greenwater Fire Department requested our assistance with improving signage. We developed a plan and submitted it to the USFS, which their engineers approved, and then went to work. The new signs, each placed with 60 pounds of concrete and treated posts, will make a significant difference. Additional foliage was removed to improve the sight distance on the road as well. Here are some pictures of the work and the work party that helped complete this project.



Additionally, we had several work parties that went out and painted graffiti in several locations. These projects will make a significant difference in deterring further damage to the forests of this type. We are nowhere near done with all of this, but it is a great start!



We also got out and painted some of the yellow gates that required graffiti removal, which was a welcome change to the look of our forests. This also makes it less inviting to the vandals who come up to the forests to engage in this type of activity.



You may note the MPS tagging on this area, which means “Make Suckas [sic] Panic.” This is a notorious Tacoma street gang that has caused tens of millions of dollars of damage to freeways and public property in the Puget Sound Region.

Also at 28 Mile Creek, there was a boat that was dropped off and later set on fire. Although we assisted with some of the initial cleanup, the Greenwater Fire Department extinguished the fire, and the USFS subsequently cleaned up the area.



It is sad to see how some people treat our public property and National Forests. Usually, we focus on illegal shooting in these reports, and there's more than enough of that to go around. We replaced about 40 signs in the last quarter, which is more than usual for April, May, and June. But this report also highlights some of the extra work our volunteers do. Besides a lot of trash cleanup—an ongoing task—we also work on other projects when we have the time and volunteers.

In terms of trash cleanup, our volunteers have been removing record-setting amounts of trash this summer. The industrial dumpster at Boundary Creek has had to be replaced several times now, in part due to the work of our group.

This next reported issue is extremely important. We have been advocating for years for the area just above the 70 Pit on the USFS 72 Road to be removed as an unsafe shooting site. It was, and has been posted, but shooters have continued to shoot down the signs and go back. Hundreds of trees are damaged, and truckloads of toxic chemicals, explosive targets, and trash have been left there constantly, not to mention the severe fire danger this location poses.



The two photos above show just a fraction of the damage. But here is the restoration work that was recently completed:







Without a doubt, this was one of the most challenging areas in the local forests, and the remediation required a significant amount of hard work. However, the reduction in illegal shooting will lead to a significantly lower fire risk for the entire region. It will require a significant amount of effort to maintain this in the first year or so, but we are committed to continuing this restoration.

We are completing more camouflage painting of tagged trees. Here is a before-and-after example of repairing damage to trees from people tagging them:



The new paint works well, and we are using it in many areas on damaged trees.

7013 Impacts and Discussion

Shooting at the 7013 was in 100% compliance for the last quarter. Thank you, thank you, thank you once again!

The closure of the 7013 area remains the foundation for significant change throughout the entire basin. Illegal shooting is way down everywhere. Shooting trash is way down. Other users are returning to the forest, and areas that were once completely trashed by shooters are now clean, well-maintained camping and hiking areas. Not to say that there are no issues and serious problem areas, but this closure has made a difference, not to mention that people, houses, and cars are no longer being hit by bullets these days from the 7013.

Additionally, the 7013 now has elk forage and smells nice. When this was open to target shooting, the area stank horribly of death as the shooters there always killed elk just to watch them die and left them there rotting. This has come to an end.

Just in case anyone has forgotten, here is what a couple of days' worth of illegal, toxic, and exploding targets at the 7013 used to look like:



70 Pit Update

Although there are cleanups from time to time, very few shooters ever obey any rules, laws, or guidelines for safe and legal shooting. Our position remains that this area should be shut down and reopened when there is compliance with safety and common-sense behavior that is expected of every other user group in our national forests. Here are a couple of examples of toxic, exploding, and illegal targets/trash:



Volunteer Hours

Current quarter volunteer hours for the WRFPA are: **229**

Total Hours for WRFPA since November 2018: **7,837**

Sign Inventory

We just ordered new signs at our own expense and will make them available to USFS personnel as needed.

Issues Moving Forward

- WRFPA expansion.
- The new 410 keys work.
- Hats for New Volunteers – We Have New Volunteer Hats! They are nice.
- Remediation at the 72 just up from the 70 pit – DONE – but keep checking.
- Remediation at Whistle Creek shooting areas.