



DATE: May 4, 2023

TO: USFS Snoqualmie Ranger District

FROM: White River FPA

SUBJECT: April 2023 Report & Hours

Organizational Issues

Nothing new.

Forest Report

Snow melt is opening up higher areas now. April is traditionally a terrible month for illegal shooting and damage from target shooters. This one is terrible. There is very little USFS presence in April, allowing the shooters to do whatever they want. Significant damage has been done to many areas. Thousands of trees have been damaged, and many have even been shot entirely off in areas where people like to camp during summer. Here is an example:



That photo is from a place near the beginning of the 7030, or Whistle Creek area, about 50 feet past the partial washout. There is a lot of shooting and damage there. Shooters are also

shooting directly onto the 70 road, which is extremely dangerous. Here is another photo from that area:



You can see the 70 road just past the targets. It is only a matter of time before someone gets killed or injured here. This area, like most places, should be closed to shooting and ditched so shooters cannot get their vehicles there. It is also on a creek, and significant toxic contamination occurs here on the Greenwater River, salmon, steelhead, and bull trout habitat.

Throughout the forests this April, shooters have destroyed signs, trees, and public property without regard for any civilized standards of behavior. Many signs now look like this:



Others are gone or shot so thoroughly that nothing is left of them. The damage from target shooters this spring, counting destroyed trees and eventually lost revenue from logging, is easily in the many millions of dollars. If any other user group had done this, there would be a significant public investigation and emergency response. The violators and groups would

have been held criminally and civilly responsible. But not target shooters. They get warnings that things will get shut down if they keep doing it. Here is how they respond to the USFS warnings that they will count to three, over and over again:



That sign at the 70 pit seldom lasts two days when it is replaced. Our group no longer replaces signs at the 70 pit as it wastes time and is dangerous for our volunteers to interact with fanatical right-wing white supremacist terrorists when they are shooting there. Fortunately, the United States Attorney has charged and convicted some of the members of groups who used to shoot train federal employees and law enforcement officers, like the Atomwaffen, and now just today, local members of the Proud Boys, who were convicted of seditious conspiracy for trying to overthrow the United States Government. One was from Auburn, Washington. We may not see them around for 20 years or so now.

Unfortunately, they are being replaced by criminal street gangs from Tacoma. Their presence with automatic weapons and training is exploding. Here are some of their markings at the old 72 pit. Note the message that they have "gone shootin":



Their markings mean that they are staking this territory as their own and warning others not to use it or conflict with them. Our group tries to paint this out, but it is hitting such a level that it is hard to keep up with. Additionally, it is costly to do. Fortunately, Conservation NW (our heroes!) has offered to supply us with paint for these efforts, and as soon as we get it, we will go to work again and try to get rid of it. We also have a system for removing gang graffiti from rocks in the forest, which has been endemic this spring. We want to take care of that in the next month or so, but it will take many hours of volunteer time.

Also of note is that some bonehead came down from the 72 road and tried to crash through the gate at the 7013, which has caused significant damage. The gate is now so bent that it cannot be accessed, even by personnel in the case of a forest fire. This needs to be repaired prior to any serious forest fire in the area. Here is a photo:



The good news in this area is that the 7013, like most areas on the lower Greenwater River, are holding their own against illegal and dangerous target shootings. Here is the gate, correctly posted, although bent from the back side as noted above:



Ever since the FBI talked to David Keith Moore about doing arson in the woods, they have stopped, although we have seen him in the woods recently on a motorcycle. He remains a brasser at shooting sites and uses the saddlebags on his motorcycle to haul the brass.

Another area of serious concern from a fire point of view is just up the 72 road off of the 70 on the right on the bend. It has become an overflow shooting area for the 70 pit and they shoot right into the forest, causing significant damage. The bullets also fly out towards State Highway 410 and the motoring public. Explosive and toxic targets are used here all the time and the risk of a forest fire is extreme. Here are some photos:



This area should be a top concern for the USFS to remediate. We recently met with Conservation NW and surveyed this site, and we are hopeful that this can be a priority this spring and summer for work to close and seriously ditch and rock and area.

Here is another spot of concern where dumb people are shooting above the 70-pit, and the bullets are heading right up to the 72 road, only a few hundred feet away. This is very dangerous, and again, it is only a matter of time before someone gets killed or injured. Note the girl turning to talk to someone and pointing her gun at other shooters. Here is what it usually looks like:



Here is another pleasant sign to greet visitors to the forests this summer, thanks to target shooters who support Donald Trump. It says, "Fuck Democrats – Trun" but then they ran out of red paint. Or couldn't spell. The United States Attorney called the Proud Boys, at the recent trial in Federal Court, "Donald Trump's Army" and it is clear that they are and that this terrorist group is shooting in our local woods. Check it out in their own words (and this is brand new):



On a more positive note, here are some of our recent efforts to block jeepers from destroying and driving into the Greenwater River and fish spawning grounds. So far it seems to be working well and hopefully, it will help protect the riparian areas from further damage.



All material is locally sourced from within two miles to keep from introducing any non-native species of any kind. It's not perfect, but it is free to the USFS. We have gotten some local contractors to help out with these efforts and hope to do more of this work.



In summary, the target shooting people have caused serious damage this April. Much of that will take years to recover from. A significant number of signs were lost, and we are not out of the brown one and need more right away. We are also out of garbage bags and would like some of them too, as soon as the dumpster is back at Boundary Creek, which is needed right away.

Last month the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources did some testing at their shooting areas and found catastrophic levels of toxic chemicals and immediately closed them to shooting. These have been open only a fraction of the time that shooting areas in the Greenwater Basin have, like the 70-pit. People should remember that the upper 72-pit had toxic chemicals that would have qualified it as a superfund site before it was closed and covered with about seven feet of fill. The current 70-pit is probably far beyond that, as are most other areas people shoot in. We have cautioned our volunteers not to even walk in the 70-pit area without shoe coverings that are carefully handled due to the significant levels of toxic chemicals. We are sure we are there. The question is, how long will this be allowed to continue? We do not oppose target shooting, just target shooting the way it is today. It should be closed and carefully re-opened with safe shooting and systems in place to capture toxic chemicals and strict adherence to safe and legal firearms handling and shooting practices, in compliance with the law, financed by the shooters themselves, like many other high-impact user groups have to do.

So, again, please consider closing the entire basin to target shooting until this can be controlled and re-opened safely for everyone in the woods. We should protect this fragile and limited resource. On our current path, the area will be destroyed, and the fish spawning areas will be permanently lost for future generations if target shooting is allowed to continue on its current path, not to mention the loss of tens of millions of dollars of public-owned forest lands that can no longer be harvested or marketed in the future.

Drop some new brown signs off to us and as soon as we get the paint from Conservation NW, our volunteers will get to work on the huge amount of criminal street gang shooters' graffiti.

See you in the forests and tell your employees that we really appreciate everything they do in such a difficult environment to help keep the USFS lands working for everyone! We are all in this common cause together.

70 Pit

No improvement from the last reports –disgusting and extremely unsafe activity remains there daily.

7013 Area

Perfect this last month! Except for the bent gate.

Illegal Camping

Good compliance on the Greenwater River, except for a meth trailer that left a huge bag of disgusting garbage and human waste.

Cedar Springs Site Concept

Pending. Conservation NW has a plan we endorsed and sent a letter of support. We hope they will gain funding and be able to move forward on this significant project in the coming years!

Volunteer Hours

Current Month volunteer hours for the WRFPA are: **72**

Total Hours for WRFPA since November 2018: **5,983**

Sign Inventory

We ran out of brown signs and we need about 25 more.

Issues Moving Forward

- Discussion on the permanent closure of 70-pit (see the report from last month).
- Permanent closure of the 7013 and access road remediation – move the gate out to the very edge of the 70 road.