



DATE: July 28, 2023

TO: USFS Snoqualmie Ranger District

FROM: White River FPA

SUBJECT: June 2023 Report & Hours

Organizational Issues

The projects of our group have been very successful in the last six years or so. Keeping the signs up are not as difficult as they once were. October and April are the worst months each year, and that might always be the case. What we had to do daily some years ago does not require as much maintenance to keep operating properly. So we will be doing these reports quarterly for now instead of monthly. We are not sure how much they get read anyway. So after this report, the next one will be at the end of September.

Forest Report

All signs are up and working. Some large garbage in some areas from dumping and of course continued damage and trash from target shooting as target shooters virtually never pick up their trash. Continued damage to trees and other forest resources is pretty much constant from target shooting and the seemingly total lack of respect for any rules or safe standards of conduct by the people who do it. We almost never see shooters complying with any rules, laws, civilized standards, or safe behavior. Target shooters are doing constant damage to the forest resources, and much of it will last for decades. Here is one of the thousands of examples – a large fish tank used as a target that was shot in a camping area:



Here is another photo of interest. It is of small children playing in the 70-shooting pit area. They were seen sitting and picking up shell casings and dirt from the area while eating with their hands. This happens fairly regularly. There is likely a devastatingly high level of extremely toxic chemicals and lead in this area. If tested, as the State Department of Natural Resources has recently done to their shooting areas, this site probably will qualify as a superfund site due to the high levels of toxic chemicals. It is almost assured that everyone shooting there is getting contaminated, and children are highly susceptible to damage from such exposure. Testing should be done here, and it should be shut down until it is safe to use again.



We will again note the press release from the State of Washington DNR: March 16, 2023 -

"During a joint site visit with DNR, initial field tests by the Washington State Department of Ecology found results ranging from 6.420 milligrams of lead per kilogram of soil to 58.100 milligrams of lead per kilogram within the North Fork rock pit. The soil cleanup level for unrestricted land use in Washington state is 250 milligrams of lead per kilogram of soil."

That is over 200 times the acceptable level. The 70 pit is probably exponentially higher.

The 70 pit, as with most other shooting areas in the Greenwater River Basin, would easily exceed those levels as they have been used for shooting for a much more extended period,

and there are no lead-capture systems in place as there are with private and existing commercial locations.

People using the 70 pit are likely subjecting themselves to extremely toxic chemical contamination. The same is true of USFS employees who go there. Our volunteers never go there without using foot covering, or carefully decontaminating their shoes after brief visits. We urge people not to go there at all these days, and this is one of the reasons we no longer maintain signs at this location for the USFS.

As soon as we get some paint from CNW, our group will be doing some graffiti removal in many areas, but we do not currently have the resources to do it.

Here is some trash from the 73 and 72 areas from dumping:



7013 Area

No shooting and no additional damage. Closures work!

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: **85**

Total Hours for WRFPA since November 2018: **6,137**

Sign Inventory

We just got 25 new signs and are stocked up for a while.

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.