



DATE: June 6, 2023

TO: USFS Snoqualmie Ranger District

FROM: White River FPA

SUBJECT: May 2023 Report & Hours

Organizational Issues

Our group may get together for an in-person meeting in June sometime, but the date is not yet set.

Forest Report

Sign loss was very high in May, but we have them back up and functioning. We actually ran out of the brown signs, but recently got a new shipment of 25 signs. Our volunteers have done some work at the bend in the 72 road just above the 70 splits in trying to brush some areas that are a mess from illegal shooting. This area needs a major cleanup, road modification, and forest reclamation as soon as the USFS is ready and has the funds. It is a major danger for a serious forest fire from illegal shooting.

The illegal shooting was high in May. Not as bad as April, but worse than in recent years for a while. The lower part of the Greenwater River – the first four miles – was fine with little to no illegal shooting. It is mostly the more distant areas.

70 Pit

This area continues to be a disaster of illegal activity, unsafe firearms handling, toxic chemical use and dispersion, explosive target shooting, and general misuse.

On any given day or time, shooters can be seen here using illegal targets and virtually never cleaning up after themselves. Toxic chemicals are shot here on a constant basis. Exploding targets, which are illegal, are used here all the time. USFS signs indicating that the area will be closed if this illegal and unsafe behavior does not stop, are destroyed as soon as they are put up.

The USFS recently put up no parking signs on the side of the road and right away, the signs are being used as targets. Here is an example:



Observe that the sign has been placed at the top of the bank to the left of the main 70 pit, where the new signs were placed along the road. It is being used as a target.

The 72 road is right behind this sign and those sparse trees, so shooters are literally shooting right into traffic on the 72 road. It is only a matter of time before a forest visitor or USFS employee is killed by a bullet from this highly unsafe shooting area.

Also, see the flat screen television screen to the right of it that was up on the sign as a target as well. It is lying on the ground just to the right at the bottom.

Note that this TV contains toxic **lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, and barium**. These materials are now on their way, a short distance down the hill, to the Greenwater River where they will kill salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, and contaminate spawning grounds for generations.

Literally, thousands of TV sets like this have been illegally shot at the 70 pit and in the general forest area of the Greenwater River Basin. We clean them up in the forests all the time. Shooters never clean them up and even if they did, the toxic chemicals are still left in the environment. If testing were done at the 70 pit, toxic chemical contamination would be off the charts. They are but a single example of what shooters bring up to the forests to use

as targets, and then leave. Our direct observations indicate that less than a couple of percent of shooters at the 70 pit remove their trash, toxic or exploding illegal targets.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources recently close some of its most popular shooting areas due to extremely high levels of toxic chemical contamination.

Here is part of a press release from the WA DNR, on their official website:

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."

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

People using the 70 pit are very 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. Take a look at this photo of the ground and note what seems to be plastic. It is actually hundreds of micro pieces of flat-screen TV sets:



And this photo is not even in the main 70 pit, but rather, in the new shooting area to the left of the pit that shoots up towards the 72 road. It is already covered with toxic trash and looks like a landfill in a third-world country.

As previously stated, target shooting, as it currently occurs in the USFS lands, is causing devastating damage to the forests. We documented two separate forest fires being started in a single day in August at a single location by target shooters. We know this is true as our volunteers are the ones who had to call the fire department and help stop them from spreading. No other user group is allowed to cause so much damage. We suggest this activity be stopped and only reopened to target shooting when safeguards are in place, and users follow the law.

7013 Area

No shooting and no additional damage. Closures work!

Illegal Camping

Several long-term illegal sites are now occupied.

Local Terrorists and Users of 7013 and 70 Pit Convicted

Ethan Nordean and other members of the Proud Boys, Oath Keepers, and Atomwaffen Division have now been convicted and are being sentenced to prison terms as long as 18 years. Nordean, one of our locals, pictured below, was convicted on May 4th.



Our group welcomes these indictments, trials, and convictions. We have been dealing with and seeing these domestic terrorist groups use the 70 pit for training to kill federal employees and their other seditious conspiracy activities for years. Prior to its closure, the 7013 area was used by them all the time, and we recognize their members. Now that over 1,000 people have been arrested and charged, we have seen the use of our areas by some of these groups drop in the Greenwater River Basin, but they are far from gone. Our national forests are areas that they love to use for their training activities. This is because no legitimate, private, or regulated shooting areas will allow them in. Very few shooting areas allow fully automatic firearms, and none allow explosives to be used. We hope it will be another couple of decades or so before Nordean is allowed to use the 70 pit, once he gets out of federal prison. Since our meeting with the USFS LE folks and the FBI and their work, the arson of USFS signs in our area has completely stopped.

New Bridge Parts Coming to Pyramid Area

Our volunteers noted the following picture of the new bridge parts being delivered to the Pyramid area, just about to cross the first bridge at the entrance to the parking area for the Greenwater Lakes Trailhead. The USFS sign didn't survive.



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: **69**

Total Hours for WRFPA since November 2018: **6,052**

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.