



DATE: December 29, 2023

TO: USFS Snoqualmie Ranger District

FROM: White River FPA

SUBJECT: October through December 2023 Report & Hours

Organizational Issues

Note that these reports will now be quarterly as opposed to each month.

Forest Report

The good news is that for the first time in many years, we did not lose a single posted sign in October. Generally speaking, we lose the most signs in April and October. We suspect this is because of the lower FS presence in the forests. After October, the snow takes care of most of the problem in the winter, and once more personnel come in after April, the shooters are less likely to destroy or remove posted signs for fear of getting caught.

In a larger sense, this means that posted closures work. Over time, keeping signs up is successful, albeit with a lot of work and hours.

The first four miles of the Greenwater River on USFS 70 Road are virtually trash and shooting-free. Before this time, they were constantly under assault from illegal target shooting with tons of trash and toxic chemicals running into the river. This is a success story. We are proud of what has been accomplished in our efforts to assist the USFS personnel.

Other areas are still under assault by illegal and unsafe target shooting. Thousands of trees in multiple areas are being damaged each day. Staggering amounts of trash and toxic chemicals are being added each day to many sites. Overall, target shooters pick up their targets, trash, and toxic chemicals less than 5% of the time.

No other user group in the forests causes a slight fraction of 1% of this damage to our public resources. Target shooters comprise a small percentage of forest users but account for well over 99% of the damage and toxic chemicals polluting our fish-spawning rivers and creeks. The loss of commercial timber is also a tremendous expense to the taxpayers. Contrary to the beliefs of the target shooters, the Constitution contains no provision that they are

allowed to destroy our public forest lands. Public target shooting as it exists today in these forestlands is a tragedy and public menace.



You cannot walk in many areas without seeing scenes like this picture above.



Tens of thousands of trees worth millions of dollars are now un-harvestable. The trees are full of bullets, and many trees have been shot down, a favorite pastime of target shooters.



The forests are full of areas full of trash like this one after shooters move in. This location is just above the 70 pit on 72 Road, where many trees are damaged or shot down, and toxic chemicals are leaching into the streams and rivers.



Here is a tree shot off by target shooters with a new target. None of the trees in this area, which has no safe backdrop, will ever be harvestable due to being full of bullets.



Aside from domestic terrorist groups training to kill government employees and overthrow our government in this area (note documentation in previous reports and the USDOJ charging hundreds of people for this from Jan 6th), criminal street gangs are now moving in to practice with their automatic military assault weapons. They always leave a calling card by spray painting on public property.



In areas like the 70 pits pictured above, shooters use illegal and toxic targets constantly, and anytime the USFS posts any signs, they are immediately shot, taken down, or destroyed. We used to keep informative signs up in this area but gave it up a couple of years ago due to the constant destruction and danger to our volunteers.

But it doesn't need to be this way. Below is a photo taken at the 7013 before its closing.



Here is that exact location today, showing that closures do work. It just takes the will to get it done and thousands of hours of volunteer time to make it stick. We put in those hours.





Here is the 7013 area today. It is an elk habitat restoration area, and virtually no one has shot there or left toxic chemicals in many years. In the year of the closure, we contacted over 400 illegal shooters between Christmas and New Year in this exact location and politely asked them to stop shooting. We replaced the signs almost daily. This Christmas season, there has not been one single illegal shooter and no toxic chemicals. CLOSURES WORK.



Here is the area leading over Huckleberry Creek that used to have some of the worst illegal shootings and toxic trash. It has significantly improved since posting it three years ago.

We are proud of the success in some areas. We are also not opposed to target shooting on public lands but believe that this should only occur when users are in full compliance with laws and safe behavior, which they never are today. We will again suggest that the areas east of Enumclaw on USFS lands be closed to target shooting and only opened back up when safe areas can be opened back up, and there is full compliance with laws and safe shooting guidelines. Toxic chemical clean-ups should also be accomplished before any reopening.



There is also a burned-out car here, just past the 7013 area on the Greenwater River side of the road, that needs to be removed. It has been there for months.

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 Quarter volunteer hours for the WRFPA are: 236

Total Hours for WRFPA since November 2018: 6,628

Sign Inventory

We are stocked up for a while.

Issues Moving Forward

- We are still waiting for paint from Conservation NW to paint out a significant amount of graffiti in the forests.
- Discussion on the closure and decontamination of the 70-pit.
- Permanent closure of the 7013 and access road remediation – move the gate out to the very edge of the 70 road.

Finally, - thanks for all the great work of the USFS personnel in our area. We sincerely appreciate your hard work and dedication to protecting our National Forests! Happy New Year!