



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

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DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Kittitas Co. GDS

Name of Proposal: DNS 19-026: WENAS WILDLIFE AREA TARGET SHOOTING
IMPROVEMENTS AND MANAGEMENT

Description of Proposal:

This project includes 4 actions to manage recreational target shooting on the Wenas Wildlife Area. Some actions have multiple phases that are dependent on securing additional funding to implement. Development of this project came through years of community engagement, public meetings and the development of the Wenas Target Shooting Advisory Committee in 2017. Actions are based on input received by the Wenas Target Shooting Advisory Committee Report (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/wtsc/>) and continued input from the Wenas Target Shooting Advisory Committee during 2018. This project addresses only the 4 actions listed, it does not impact lawful dispersed target shooting outside of the proposed management actions.

Action 1-Improve Sheep Company Road Target Shooting Site in Yakima County. This location on the Wenas Wildlife Area is popular to target shooters and will be enhanced to safely support recreational target shooting while protecting adjacent wildlife habitat. Enhancements are planned in Phases. Phase 1 includes; upgrading access road, developing parking lot and providing ADA parking, construction of ADA accessible path and 10 firing lines each for 25-yard and 100-yard ranges, constructing backstops, target stands and installing signs and kiosks. Shooting benches are also going to be installed. Phase 2 will include constructing side berms on the ranges, developing a shotgun range and a range for longer distances (additional planning and permitting is needed for the longer distance range).

Action 2-Improve existing Durr Road Target Shooting Site in Kittitas County. This location on the Wenas Wildlife Area is popular to target shooting and will be enhanced to safely support recreational target shooting while protecting adjacent wildlife habitat. Enhancements are planned in phases. Phase 1 includes; developing parking, including ADA accessible parking, construction of ADA accessible path and 10 firing lines each for 25-yard and 100-yard ranges, constructing backstops, target stands and installing signs and kiosks. Phase 2 would include constructing side berms on the ranges and developing a shotgun range. If additional review determines it is feasible a 200-yard range may also be constructed (additional planning and permitting is needed for the 200-yard range).

Action 3-Designate a target shooting restriction area around Buffalo Road on the Wenas Wildlife Area, and establish a designated shotgun only location as shown on the map. In the restricted area no target shooting will be allowed (closed to pistol, rifle, shotgun), except in the designated shotgun only location which will be open to shotgun use at clay targets only (no buckshot or slugs). The perimeter of the restricted area will be posted and the shotgun only location will be posted and have informational signs. The restricted area covers 3,408 acres. The restricted area will still be open for hunting, and for use as designated, for bird dog training. See map for boundary and location of designated shotgun only location.

Action 4-Implement a seasonal timing restriction to limit target shooting across the wildlife area to the hours of sunrise to 10:00 AM during the summer when there is high fire danger based on weather and vegetation conditions. This closure would occur annually based on seasonal conditions but would not exceed May 15-September 30th each year. Signs would be posted during the closure period. A temporary seasonal closure has been implemented each year since 2012. This proposal is to move away from a temporary seasonal closure to a permanent annual season closure.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Ross Huffman
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Ross.Huffman@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: WDFW Wenas Wildlife Area in the following locations:

Action 1: Yakima County off Sheep Company Road; Township 15N, Range 18E, Section 26.

Action 2: Kittitas County off Durr Road; Township 16N, Range 18E, Section 10.

Action 3: Yakima County; Township 14N, Range 19E, Sections 5, 6, 7, 8 and Township 15N, Range 19E, Sections 31 and 32.

Action 4: Yakima and Kittitas Counties; see maps for locations.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² **We will not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on May 16, 2019.**

Method of Comment:

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at:
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Habitat Program, Protection Division

Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

DATE OF ISSUE: May 2, 2019

SIGNATURE: 

Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 19-026.dns

