

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. Background [\[HELP\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **Wenas Wildlife Area Target Shooting Improvements and Management**
2. Name of applicant: **Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: **Ross Huffman, 1701 S 24th Ave, Yakima WA 98902, 509 457-9313, ross.huffman@dfw.wa.gov**
4. Date checklist prepared: **4/15/19**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **Washington Dept of Fish & Wildlife**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **Phase 1- Implement in 2019, Phase 2-Timing unknown, depends on securing additional funding.**
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. **Yes, but no details are known at this time. There is a potential for additional improvements or expansion of target shooting sites. If that project was proposed it would require additional review and permitting by the counties.**
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
None known
9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.
None known
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
**Conditional Use Permit and grading permit-Yakima County
Conditional Use Permit and grading permit-Kittitas County
Cultural Resource Review DAHP and Yakama Nation
Storm Water Management Plan-DOE**
11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

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.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

Action 1- Wenas Wildlife Area, Yakima County, T15 R18 Section 26 off of Sheep Company Road

Action 2- Wenas Wildlife Area, Kittitas County, T16 R18 Section 10 off of Durr Road

Action 3- Wenas Wildlife Area, Yakima County, T14 R19 Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, T15, R19 Sections 31 and 32

Action 4- Wenas Wildlife Area, Yakima and Kittitas County, see attached map

B. Environmental Elements [\[HELP\]](#)

1. **Earth** [\[help\]](#)

a. General description of the site:

(circle one): **Flat, rolling, hilly**, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Slopes vary widely across the wildlife area, construction from Actions 1-2 will occur in flat areas with slopes not exceeding 10%.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Soils vary across the wildlife area but consist primarily of basalt material that has broken down into coarse gravels, cobbles, and boulders, with finer loams, silts and clays.

Soils on the constructions sites are generally shallow clay soils.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Fill will be used to construct earthen backstops and side berms in Actions 1 and 2.

Total volumes combine Phase 1 and Phase 2 and include excavation and fill quantities.

Action 1, Sheep Company Road, Yakima County, estimates of total fill needed for construction of access road, parking, 25-yard and 100-yard range is 9,577 cubic yards with 3,704 cubic yards coming from excavation on site. A total of 2.9 acres will be disturbed much of which is part of the existing access road and parking area.

Action 2, Durr Road, Kittitas County, estimates of total fill need for construction of parking, 25-yard and 100-yard range is 11,062 cubic yard, 2,102 cubic yards of which will come from excavation on site. A total of 2.9 acres will be disturbed for construction. Fill needed for construction will come from approved off site sources and will meet specifications outlined in the bid process. Base of berms can be mixed materials but the top 1-2 feet of material where bullets impact will need to be free of rocks and meet specifications for shooting range backstops.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Yes, erosion could occur during construction and BMP's will be used during construction to minimize erosion including installing straw wattleles and silt fence. Erosion could occur during the use of the site, due to the earthen berms and backstop that will be constructed of soil and requirements that some ground be kept bare of vegetation for safety and fire prevention.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Impervious surfaces will include the compacted gravel parking areas and the access road, and shooting pads. Percentage of cover is below 1% in relation to the full wildlife area acreage.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Earthen berms and backstops will be seeded with native grass, where bareground is not required. Areas requiring bareground will be inspected regularly and maintained as needed to reduce erosion and maintain soil on site. Best Management Practices will be used during construction including silt fence, straw wattle logs, and straw mulch.

2. Air [\[help\]](#)

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Heavy equipment and trucks with internal combustion engines will be used during construction, resulting in exhaust emissions. Equipment will be needed over the years

for maintenance of berms and backstops. The public will continue to access the sites by vehicles so there will be emissions during the operation of the site.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

None known.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Vehicles and equipment used during construction will be kept in good operating order to minimize emissions.

3. **Water** [\[help\]](#)

a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.
In relation to construction activities, Action 1 for the construction of the improved site at Sheep Company Road will be 600 feet from Cottonwood Creek, a seasonal stream. All other activities are either not near surface water or will have no impact on surface water.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

No

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

N/A

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

N/A

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.
No active work will be completed within the 100-year floodplain. Actions 3 and 4 cover large portions of the wildlife area but the actions will restrict use and will not impact floodplains.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No

b. Ground Water: [\[help\]](#)

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities

withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

N/A

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Stormwater will be collected on site through storm water management plans submitted through Yakima County for Action 1 and Kittitas County for Action 2. Water will not flow into other waters, but will be diverted, routed and/or collected on site and/or directed across vegetated ground to infiltrate the soil.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

It is possible that waste materials, primarily lead, could enter surface waters if it moves offsite. A lead management plan will be used to monitor the sites and remediation of lead will occur as needed when accumulation levels are reached. Utilizing correct construction of backstops, maintenance and monitoring will minimize the risk of lead moving off site.

- 2) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

No

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

Project design and stormwater management plan will be used to maximize infiltration of stormwater and preclude any surface water runoff.

4. **Plants** [\[help\]](#)

- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

shrubs

grass

- ___ pasture
- ___ crop or grain
- ___ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
- ___ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- ___ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- ___ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Construction will result in the removal of native and invasive grasses on 2.9 acres in Yakima County and 2.9 acres in Kittitas County acres. Areas not needed to be maintained as bare ground will be seeded with native vegetation. Portions of the areas that will be disturbed have already been impacted by target shooting resulting in existing bare ground.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None known.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Disturbed ground, berms and backstops not needing to be bare ground will be seeded with a native grass seed mix.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

Cheat grass, diffuse knapweed, Russian knapweed, thistle, kochia

5. Animals [\[help\]](#)

a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:

birds: **hawk**, heron, **eagle**, **songbirds**, other: **chukar**, **burrowing owl**
 mammals: **deer**, bear, **elk**, beaver, other: **badger**, **Townsend's ground squirrel**
 fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None known to be on the sites proposed for construction.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Entire wildlife area is used by a wide variety of wildlife and includes winter and summer range for elk and mule deer.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Project will develop 2 Improved sites for recreational target shooting and will designate a

third site for shotgun only use only which will provide increased capacity at these locations, which will reduce dispersed target shooting in areas that are impacting wildlife habitat.

Other actions of the project will restrict target shooting during fire season which will reduce the risk of fires on wildlife and their habitat.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

None known

6. Energy and Natural Resources [\[help\]](#)

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

N/A

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

N/A-project does not use energy

7. Environmental Health [\[help\]](#)

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

The Sheep Company and Durr Road locations have been used by the public for target shooting for many years. The sites contain no berms or backstops to stop bullets and sites have been used for shotgun clay target shooting as well. Lead is present on the sites in unknown quantities. Conditions on the sites appear stable and it is unlikely that lead has moved off site. Construction of improvements at the sites will allow for containment and management of future lead from target shooting. The sites will be monitored and lead will be remediated or be reclaimed as needed. No soil will be leaving the sites, and BMP's will be used to confine and reduce movement of lead off site from wind and water.

2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

Lead from recreational target shooting, no other known conditions.

3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating

life of the project.

Lead from recreational target shooting, no other known conditions.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

No special emergency services will be needed, the Sheep Company area is within Yakima County Fire District 2 and is also covered by DNR Fire Protection (FFPA). The Durr Road location is covered by DNR Fire Protection (FFPA). The improved sites will have posted emergency fire response phone numbers and Lat/Long posted for emergency response.

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

A Lead Management Plan will be used to monitor and manage lead accumulation on the improved sites.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

No existing noise in the area will impact this project.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Noise from this project varies by the actions being taken. Actions 1 and 2 will require construction and there will be equipment noise generated during construction, this will be during normal work hours and limited in duration. Following construction these 2 areas will be used for recreational target shooting which will generate noise during the life of the site. This noise already exists on these sites as they have been in use for years. Use will be restricted to daylight hours. Noise leaving the sites will likely be reduced when the berms are constructed as shooting will be mostly confined within berms. An acoustics study was completed for the Sheep Company Site, Yakima County, and measured noise levels at 3 locations around the nearest private residences. Loudest measurements ranged from 54-58 dBA at 0.5 miles away at the nearest residence. At the Durr Road location, Kittitas County, no accousitic measurements were completed. The closest private residence is over 2 miles away. Noise may impact other recreational activities by the public.

Actions 3 and 4 will likely result in a reduction in noise during the life of the project as they will restrict most target shooting activities in a currently popular area along Buffalo Road near a large number of residences and implement timing restrictions annually across the wildlife area during fire season will limit target shooting use.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Design and orientation of the improved sites in Yakima and Kittitas County will direct fire away from residences and private property. Which should reduce noise impacts to neighbors. Constructed berms are also likely to reduce noise leaving the improved sites.

8. Land and Shoreline Use [\[help\]](#)

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

The Wenas Wildlife Area is managed to conserve habitat for fish and wildlife and for compatible public recreation. Adjacent properties are a mix of private lands and public lands managed by state (DNR) and Federal (US Forest Service, BLM) land managers.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

None

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

No

c. Describe any structures on the site.

No structures exist on site

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No structures will be demolished

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

County land use designation varies across the wildlife area. At the Sheep Company location in Yakima County the property is zoned Rural/Extremely Limited Development Potential (R/ELDP). The Durr Road location in Kittitas County is zoned Commercial Agriculture.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

County comprehensive plan designation varies across the wildlife area. At the Sheep Company location in Yakima County the property is designated Rural Remote/ELDP. The Durr Road location in Kittitas County is designated as Commercial Agriculture.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

N/A

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

No

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Proposal was designed with input from the Wenas Target Shooting Advisory Committee and reviewed and approved by WDFW staff.

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

None

9. Housing [\[help\]](#)

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

N/A

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

N/A

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

N/A

10. Aesthetics [\[help\]](#)

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

No structures are proposed, earthen backstops will be 15' high and side berms will be 10' high.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

This project should not alter any views.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Project will be designed to minimize impacts and should be an improvement on current conditions of concentrated target shooting sites.

11. Light and Glare [\[help\]](#)

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

No lighting is planned and no products producing glare will be used. Use will be restricted to daylight hours only.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None known, Location is on public lands, nearest private residences are over .5 mile away.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None proposed.

12. Recreation [\[help\]](#)

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Property is part of the Wenas Wildlife Area which is managed to provide fish and wildlife habitat and provided sustainable fish and wildlife related recreation opportunities.

Recreational opportunities will be maintained across the wildlife area and some will be enhanced by improvements to the designated sites. Recreation and public safety will be enhanced by this project.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Some recreational target shooting will be restricted due to the seasonal timing restrictions and the small area where all target shooting will be restricted. However, this should be offset by the developments being proposed at the improved sites. Other recreation will be maintained and potentially enhanced by improved management and safety of recreational target shooting.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

The purpose of the proposal is to manage and improve safety and recreation on the wildlife area for all recreational user groups. Facility improvements focus on recreational target shooting.

13. Historic and cultural preservation [\[help\]](#)

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.

None known in areas proposed for construction activities.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation?

This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

The general area of the Sheep Company site has been surveyed in the past and a report (1681878) was completed by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) that located 1 isolate (YA01420) near the project area, no other artifacts were located. A review of the Dept of Archeology and Historic Preservation database does not identify any other sites.

The area near the Durr Road site has been surveyed on 2 occasions, 1 survey was for a fiberoptics line (1351829) and the other was survey of the nearby access roads for a restoration project (1690356). No surveys have been completed to date on the actual project site.

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

WDFW will complete consultation with tribes (Yakama Nation) and DAHP following completion of cultural resource review and surveys that are being contracted with the Yakima Nation Cultural Resource Program. No work will occur until consultation is complete.

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

WDFW will implement and follow recommendations in the Cultural Resource Report and consultations with DAHP/Yakama Nation. This could include onsite monitoring and following a inadvertent discovery plan.

14. Transportation [\[help\]](#)

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The wildlife area is generally accessed by county roads, open roads on the wildlife area are managed by WDFW. Access to the Sheep Company site in Yakima County is via Sheep Company Road, the county has ROW for Sheep Company and Durr Road, but ends maintenance .75 south of the project area at the wildlife area boundary. WDFW will maintain and enhance the access road.

The Durr Road location in Kittitas County is accessed via Durr Road which is a county ROW.

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

Parking is being developed at the 2 existing parking area locations. The Sheep Company site in Yakima County will have 36 parking spaces including ADA spaces. The Durr Road

site in Kittitas County will have 10 parking spaces at the 25-yard and 100-yard distances and 6 parking spaces at the shotgun area, including ADA spaces.

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

The existing access road for the Sheep Company location is currently a dirt road, it will be widened, graded and graveled to provide better access and reduce slope to less than 10% for fire truck access.

- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

Daily vehicle trips are not known. The Sheep Company and Durr Road sites are already popular for recreational target shooting, use levels are expected to increase with the improvements being proposed.

- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

No

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Road will be inspected and maintained as needed.

15. Public Services [\[help\]](#)

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

The project is not expected to result in an increased need for public services. Through implementation of all actions it is expected that public fire and safety response needs will be reduced.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None proposed

16. Utilities [\[help\]](#)

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other _____

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None proposed

C. Signature [\[HELP\]](#)

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.


Signature: _____

Name of signee Ross Huffman

Position and Agency/Organization Regional Lands Operations Manager

Date Submitted: 4/16/19

DNS 19-026-Wenas Wildlife Area Target Shooting Improvements and Management
 SEPA Comment Period, May 2-May 16, 2019

#	Comment	WDFW Response
1	<p>I support the development of a defined and restricted shooting area at Wenas. Judy Hallisey</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>
2	<p>Dear Ms. Wood:</p> <p>The process WDFW has facilitated over the past couple of years has been productive by informing this proposal. There has been abundant education opportunities created by the process for the public around the complexities of shooting on public lands. The very diverse advisory committee has had ample opportunity to discuss with themselves many options, and they've done a lot of compromising as they learned from each other. Throughout the planning process there has been complete transparency in decision making. The staff working so hard on this project should be recognized for the effort they put into this complex task.</p> <p>The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides recreation opportunities where such uses are compatible with the trust objectives. Trust Lands are publically owned and managed, but they are not public lands in the sense that we are accustomed to thinking of national parks, national forests, or many other types of public land. They are managed for clearly specified beneficiaries, principally the common schools. DNR is obligated to make the trust productive and to act with undivided loyalty to the beneficiary. There are many DNR managed lands scattered within the planning area.</p> <p>The Region was represented at nearly all of the meetings where development of these actions took place. The improvements will reduce impacts to DNR trust lands due to better controls provided by all the actions. It is the Region's belief that the proposed actions are the safest possible early actions that can be taken to address the many shooting topics the advisory committee has worked on. The Phase 2 actions that are mentioned under Action 1 will need more consideration from a safety and environmental stand point. Additionally, Phase two is where DNR will need to coordinate more directly as the footprint of actions will spread to DNR managed lands within the wildlife area.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this planning process and to comment on the SEPA. Southeast Region supports the implementation of the four actions listed in this proposal. They will provide a safer, more sustainable experience for shooters on the Wenas Wildlife Area. We look forward to more conversations around this topic and other adaptations to recreational use in the future on our mixed ownership.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>  <p>Larry Leach</p>	<p>Thank you for the response, we look forward to continuing to coordinate with DNR as this project is implemented, especially as opportunities for longer distance target shooting are developed which will directly impact trust lands.</p>
3	<p>This project should not go forward until the ground at the shooting range is tested for lead contamination. The shooting range has been in existence for over 40 years and has never been tested due to the objections of WDFW staff. Their conclusion is that the "blocking" caliche soil prevents lead from penetrating and poisoning the shooting range with lead contamination. That theory should be tested. Until the testing is done through a certified agency, nothing should go forward on this project Ed Shoenbach</p>	<p>Lead management is addressed in the SEPA checklist, WDFW is not removing any materials from the site and is taking efforts to contain any lead existing or added to the site from mobilizing and leaving the project area. The site will be monitored and lead accumulation will be reclaimed as needed.</p>

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<p>4</p>	<p>Dear sirs,</p> <p>The subject discussion seems consistent with the written proposals generated by the Target Shooting Committee as well as subsequent involvement of the committee with DFW officials. The report is silent on the subject of dedicated and dependent funding as well as a provisional timetable for implementation.</p> <p>Regards, Steve Miller, Target Committee member</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment, current funding is limited to the proposed phase 1 improvements, additional funding will be needed for phase 2 work and long term maintenance. Implementation of phase 1 work is expected in 2019.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>The WDFW Region 3 (WDFWR3) proposal is typically inadequate approach by government to an opportunity to provide community with a long term solution to an issue they themselves have brought to the front.</p> <p>In May of 2017 WDFWR3 seated the Wenas Target Shooting Committee which met through December of 2017.</p> <p>At the outset WDFWR3 seated the TSC to address four (4) concerns;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">1.Safety 2. Habitat 3. Trash 4. Fire</p> <p>In the later months of the Target Shooting Committee (TSC) meetings while the committee was discussion shooting options for the Buffalo Road (BR) site, WDFW Program Manager McCorquodale (PMM) stated, quote; “if it were up to me there would be no shooting at Buffalo Road”.</p> <p>The plan set forth by WDFWR3 in the SEPA fails to adequately meet the recommendations as set forth by the TSC.</p> <p>Clearly insufficient funding is being used as the driving reason behind the plan. This is poor excuse for what is in truth poor management. Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office in 2017 had on its web site posted there was at that time available \$580,000 for Firearm and Archery Range Recreation. WDFW R3 has known since 2017 that funding was necessary to achieve the recommendations. Had R3 leadership been proactive in seeking funding from all sources including grants from National Rifle Association, The National Shooting Sports Foundation and other available groups?, there is little doubt adequate funding would have been found.</p> <p>Why did WDFRR3 not apply for such grants? State government would not have wanted to found publicly aligning themselves with any PRO FIREARM organization</p>	<p>Several of the commenter’s comments have been received before and direct responses have been previously provided. Several of the comments to this SEPA review are personal conjecture and others are inaccurate.</p> <p>Recommendations from the Wenas Target Shooting Advisory Committee (WTSAC) that substantively addressed the 4 principal concerns (safety, habitat conservation, litter reduction, and fire risk) have generally moved forward within limits of budget, agency policy, and applicable law.</p> <p>The WTSAC role was advisory, not decision-making. The commenter has mischaracterized some outcomes of the WTSAC process. For example, there was no consensus in the report regarding a shotgun range at Sheep Company Road.</p> <p>Additional funding was sought to support this project for the 19-21 biennium, but was not secured. This project will continue to be a priority for the region and all potential</p>

<p>.Simply because state government is ANTI FIREARM and is grudgingly accommodating the shooting public with what WDFWR3 believes is all that is necessary to appease this moment in politics.</p> <p>WDFWR3 has successfully used the lack of finale agreement for shooting activities at BR as the reason for what will be later in time be judged as, from its inception, a failed plan that has missed opportunity to address the concerns brought forth by WDFWR3 applying the recommendations made by the TSC.</p> <p>The TSC was manipulated by WDFWR3 staff in such a way as to purposely not enable the TSC the ability to reach consensus for target shooting at Buffalo Road. This lack of consensus is foundational to the plan set forth in the SEPA.</p> <p>The TSC recommended there only be discharge of Shotguns at Buffalo Road and a location for the activity was recommended.</p> <p>Development of a shotgun only range does appear to be in the plan. However the plan purposely lacks definitive description for the location of the range and lacks definition for what level of development will be provided. Moreover the development is intended to be last on the list of areas to be enhanced. Instead, this site should be the first to be developed at the Selah end of the Wenas.</p> <p>The reason for BR development being last is in the opinion of this observer, is that WDFWR3 has no intention of developing a Shotgun range or any other range at Buffalo Road. Rather the plan is to first enhance the site at Sheep Company Road (SCR) which, includes an accommodation for shotgun.</p> <p>This is directly opposed to the TSC recommendation that there be NO shotgun shooting at SCR.</p> <p>Please realize the underlying the reason for the failure to apply the TSC recommendation is the statement made by PMM that there be no shooting at BR.</p> <p>The planed enhancement at SCR includes a token shotgun stand at the Southeastern corner of the site.</p>	<p>funding sources will be evaluated.</p> <p>Thank you for the constructive comment on the shotgun range orientation at Sheep Company Road. If possible, the orientation will be adjusted to maximize use.</p> <p>As described in the SEPA, the Buffalo Road proposal is based on information in the WTSAC report and over a year of additional coordination with the committee.</p> <p>Lead management is addressed in the SEPA checklist. Existing soils that may contain lead will not be removed from the property. Going forward lead accumulations will be monitored and will be reclaimed as needed. All contracts would go through a competitive bid process.</p> <p>Thank you for your comment on range design and layout. The design has been reviewed by internal and external experts as well as the WTSAC. The project will continue to move forward as proposed.</p>
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<p>One would think that driving enhancements of any type at any of the chosen site would be to offer to the public a site that they would want to use.</p> <p>The location for a shotgun position pointing SE is one of the least desirable positions for a sport that requires a participant to look skyward into the sun. Common sense would tell anyone that the location for the range would best be located looking north or at minimum northeasterly.</p> <p>Participants will recognize the location chosen will diminish time of day available for its use and diminish the number of participants. So when and where will they go? Elsewhere on the Wenas Wildlife Area in direct opposition to the intent of the enhancements</p> <p>To this observer WDFWR3 intends to placate shotgun shooters in the hope that enhancement at BR will be unnecessary. Again consider PMM statement.</p> <p>In reality there should be NO SHOTGUN SITE at SCR as recommended by the TSC. WHY NOT?</p> <p>Visit The Pomona Gun Club located in Yakima County on State Route 821 north of Selah. This group is over 50 years in operation. It is a best example of a safe shooting range.</p> <p>First of all shotgun is commonly placed apart from hand gun or long gun because discharge of shotguns is technically demanding, demanding in ways that are being totally disregarded by WDFW R3.</p> <p>If WDFWR3 seriously desired long term solutions addressing the four (4) concerns as were brought forth, SCR would be seen as an opportunity rather than as a an undesirable conclusion for something an ANTI GUN state government agency is attempting to force down the throats of the tax paying public they are responsible to accommodate.</p> <p>These enhancements at the locations outlined in the SEPA are intended to attract shooters to the locations thereby diminishing the need or the desire to go elsewhere on the Wenas to discharge firearms.</p> <p>The plan as set forth may be a temporary solution but is not a long term fix. As a result WDFWR3 will have spent time and funding, inadequately enhancing these sites which in</p>	
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<p>the end do NOT provide a long term solution to the very reasons the TSC was seated.</p> <p>If developed as presented WDFWR3 has in the plan a discussion regarding lead. There is acknowledgement of the current existence of lead. There is discussion of later management of lead deposited after enhancements are made.</p> <p>Environmentally I can agree with WDFWR3 SEPA approach to the lead. There is not threat to the public by lead being at these locations.</p> <p>However there is not discussion for why there is no plan to address removal of existing lead. Considering the lack of funding and considering the value of reclaimed lead?</p> <p>Consider throughout the country the emphasis placed on proper management of lead including professional commercial reclamation of this valuable commodity.</p> <p>The current volume of lead at SCR must huge. Consider; you do the math.</p> <p>A single 150 grain projectile is in common use for center fire rifle and hand guns. One (1) 150 grain projectile = approximately 1/3 of an ounce of lead.</p> <p>Three (3) such projectiles = One ounce of lead. The SCR site became public lands in 1968.</p> <p>Now 50 years later, if the site averaged 5 shooters per day (many more in reality), each shooter discharging 20 rounds of ammunition, each projectile weighing 150 grains (1/3.) X 365 days, X 50 years, how many tons of lead may be laying just under the ground and on top of the ground at SCR ???</p> <p>This equation does not consider the additional volume of lead laid down by shotgun shooters over these same years, nor does it consider the enormous volume of small caliber ammunition (.22 caliber) discharged by adults or parents and grandparents training young shooters.</p> <p>Combined it must be recognized there is an enormous volume of lead at SCR and WDFW R3 is disregarding the opportunity to harvest this recoverable reusable commodity for the value it represents.</p>	
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	<p>Visit www.mt2.com.</p> <p>This company has been recommended to and has contacted WDFW R3 relating the companies ability to cost effectively harvest of lead. I have been in contact with the company and to my knowledge to this date WDFW R3 has never responded to their contact.</p> <p>WDFW R3 has not taken the opportunity to ask the questions needed to make a proactive plan to address the opportunity to harvest existing lead for it value to aid in funding enhancements on the Wenas Wildlife Area. WHY NOT?</p> <p>WDFW has rules by which at the conclusion of their chosen activity, participants are required to pickup spent brass cartridges and shotgun shell casings.</p> <p>A) TRASH: No detail is provided for grounds preparation and covering which will allow and encourage participants to perform this task. Absent a ground surface (asphalt or concrete) which will allow and encourage this task, many will not do so especially when there is a large volume of small caliber brass such as discharge of .22 caliber ammunition. These casing are small and not able to be picked out of gravel.</p> <p>B) SAFETY: The plan as proposed leaves to a later date for the addition of side berms barriers between shooting lanes. This is unacceptable.</p> <p>The WDFWR3 plan places shoulder to shoulder, shooters of different shooting disciplines who do not know each other, and expects this to be a safe environment. At minimum this condition will not encourage use of the site. Shooters will, as they have in the past, recognize this condition and continue to go else where on the Wenas to do their shooting. WDFWR3 wishes to changes this activity but makes an inadequate effort and financial investment to achieve goal.</p> <p>Side berms are necessary at the outset of the enhancements.</p>	
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	<p>The Plan set forth disregards a growing population, both in the Ellensburg area and the Selah area of the Wenas Wildlife area.</p> <p>The recommendations made by the TSC recognized and included this fact when making the recommendations for the locations and arrangement of shooting disciplines at SCR and Durr Road. These recommendations were supported by George Holman (US Army Range Design Expert). WDFWR3 is attempting to proceed disregarding these recommendations.</p> <p>As such the plan set forth in the SEPA may initially and limitedly resolve a portion of the four (4) concerns brought forth by WDFWR3. However in a relatively short time will prove, on their own, to have been ill-conceived and thought though poorly.</p> <p>It is recommended there be a formal review by the proper agencies and range design experts to reconsider the plan as set forth.</p> <p>That the plan be put it on hold until WDFWR3 complies with the recommendations of the TSC.</p> <p>James Lydigsen Past member 2017 TSC</p>	
6	<p>In my opinion the WDFW DNS is appropriate, particularly inasmuch as the proposed improvements will far more likely than not both improve public safety due to the addition of backstops and side berms in heavily used target shooting areas both for shooters and for the general public using the Wildlife Area and residents adjacent to the Wildlife Area.</p> <p>The improvements will also (if constructed appropriately) limit environmental movement of lead away from projectile impact areas and facilitate management (periodic removal) of lead from backstops compared to current use practices.</p> <p>In my opinion compacted crushed rock of either quarry spall underlayment/base or ¾" minus or larger surface installation is more permeable than the fractured basalt/clay soil at the site(s).</p>	<p>Thank you for the comments. WDFW will monitor the site and follow Dept of Ecology requirements.</p>

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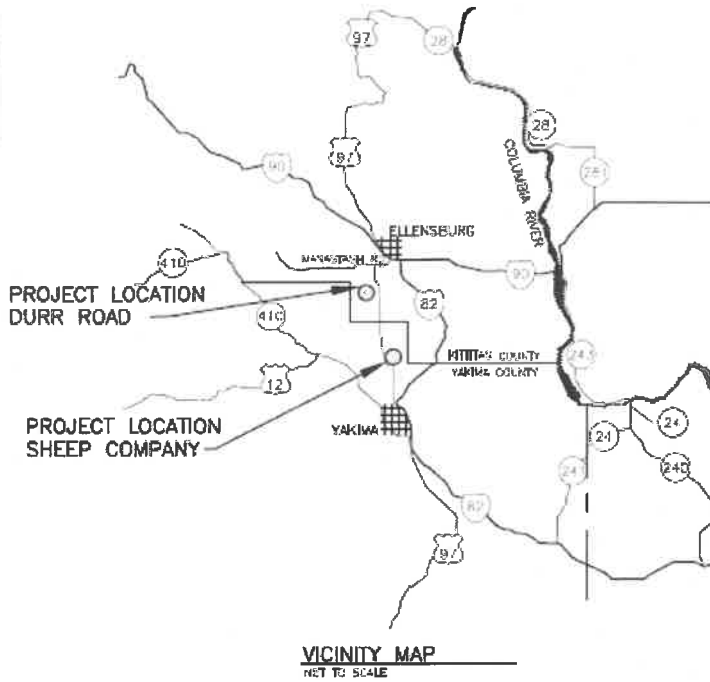
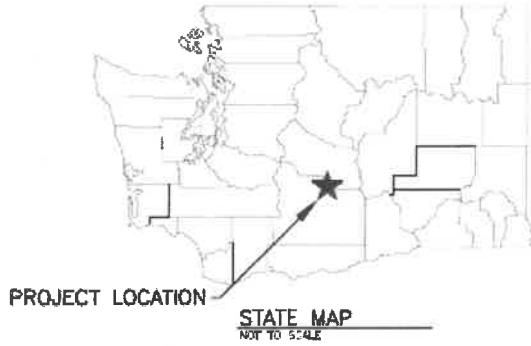
	<p>While there will likely be some minor movement of lead (associated with adsorption to soil fines) primarily due to wind erosion and/or fugitive dust when shooting occurs in future use, it will most likely be limited to 75 feet or so (see remediation report for the Snohomish County Sheriff's Range at Payne Field, accessible through the Department of Ecology ISIS (Integrated Site Information System) for background. This report will give insight into likely current and/or future impacts at these sites.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Paine Field Pistol Range 3220 Cleanup, 100TH EVERETT WA 98204 PAINE ST SW</p> <p>15848557 PAIN FIELD SHERIFF PISTOL RANGE SHERIFF PISTOL RANGE</p> <hr/> <p>7.a.5. of the SEPA checklist should also address lead contamination (if found to be present above MTCA (Ch. 70.105D RCW, WAC 173-340, i.e. comprising a "hazardous substance, in the Worker Health and Safety Plan for construction.</p> <p>If lead (Pb), antimony (Sb) or arsenic (As) are found above MTCA standards (see above comment), the location should be reported to Ecology and an Interim Action Plan should be developed for such contaminated areas to contain or otherwise safeguard or use contamination within the zone of contamination (to avoid waste generation).</p> <p>If you have any questions about these comments, please feel free to contact me.</p> <p>Sincerely, Norm Peck</p>	
7	<p>It would seem to make more sense to keep all of the shooting in one area. Since Buffalo Rd is a popular area for hikers and horses, having a shooting area there would have a negative impact on those activities. From experience I have found that the majority of the people shooting are not conscious of others in the vicinity. I have have had some bad experiences where people were not respectful of horses and</p>	<p>Thank you for the comment. The proposal seeks to balance the variety of recreation use in the Buffalo Road Area. A shot gun only area at a designated location is appropriate and will provide opportunity for a</p>

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	people passing by. Having all of the firearms in one area would leave other areas available for use by those that are not shooting. Kelly Neilson	segment of the community while limiting impacts to other users and surrounding private property owners.
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Wenas Target Shooting Improvements and Management SEPA Maps

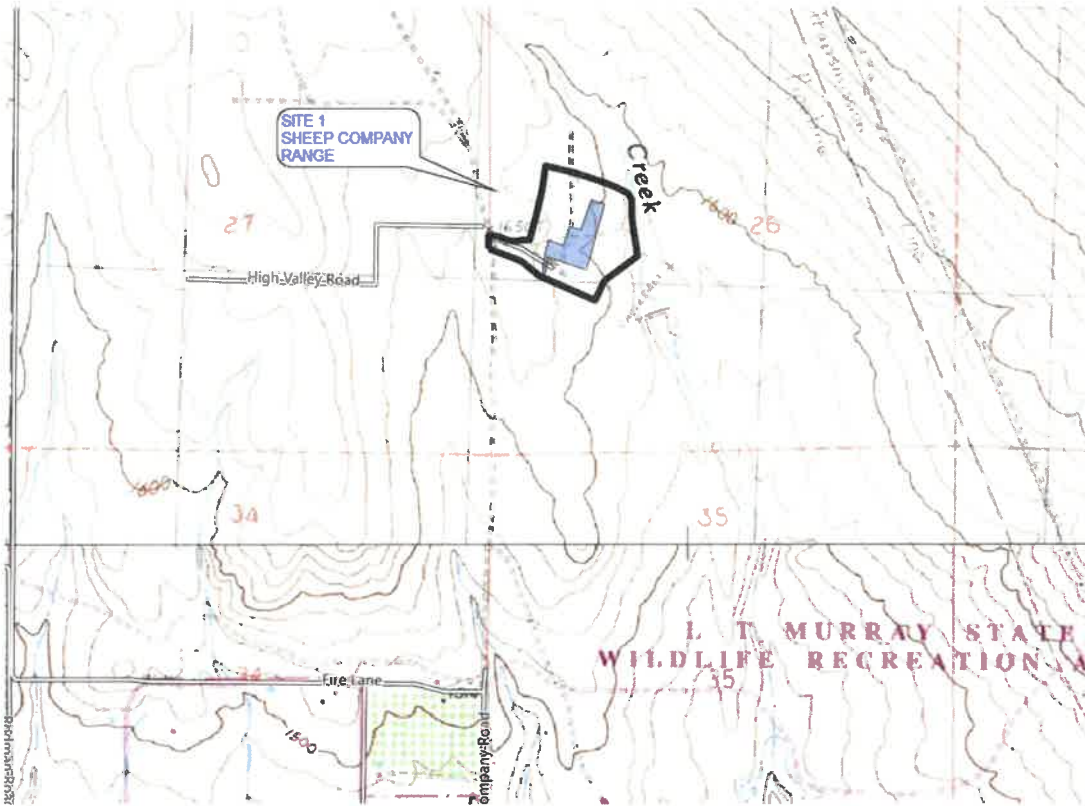
Map-Statewide locator and location of Action 1 and 2 on the Wenas Wildlife Area.



LEGEND	
TOWNSHIP & RANGE LINE	— — — —
SECTION LINE	— — — —
WORK POINT	○
RIVER	— — — —

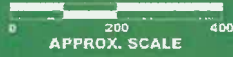
REFERENCE NO.	
APPLICANT:	WASHINGTON DEPT. of FISH & WILDLIFE
	WENAS WILDLIFE AREA
	VICINITY MAP
	& STATE MAP
AT:	YAKIMA/ELLENSBERG, WASHINGTON
DATE:	3/21/2019 SHEET 1 OF 1

Maps Action 1-Sheep Company Target Shooting Improvement Area and proposed Layout. Phase 1 and Phase 2 work shown. Long distance range layout for reference only, it is not included in project proposal (additional review required).

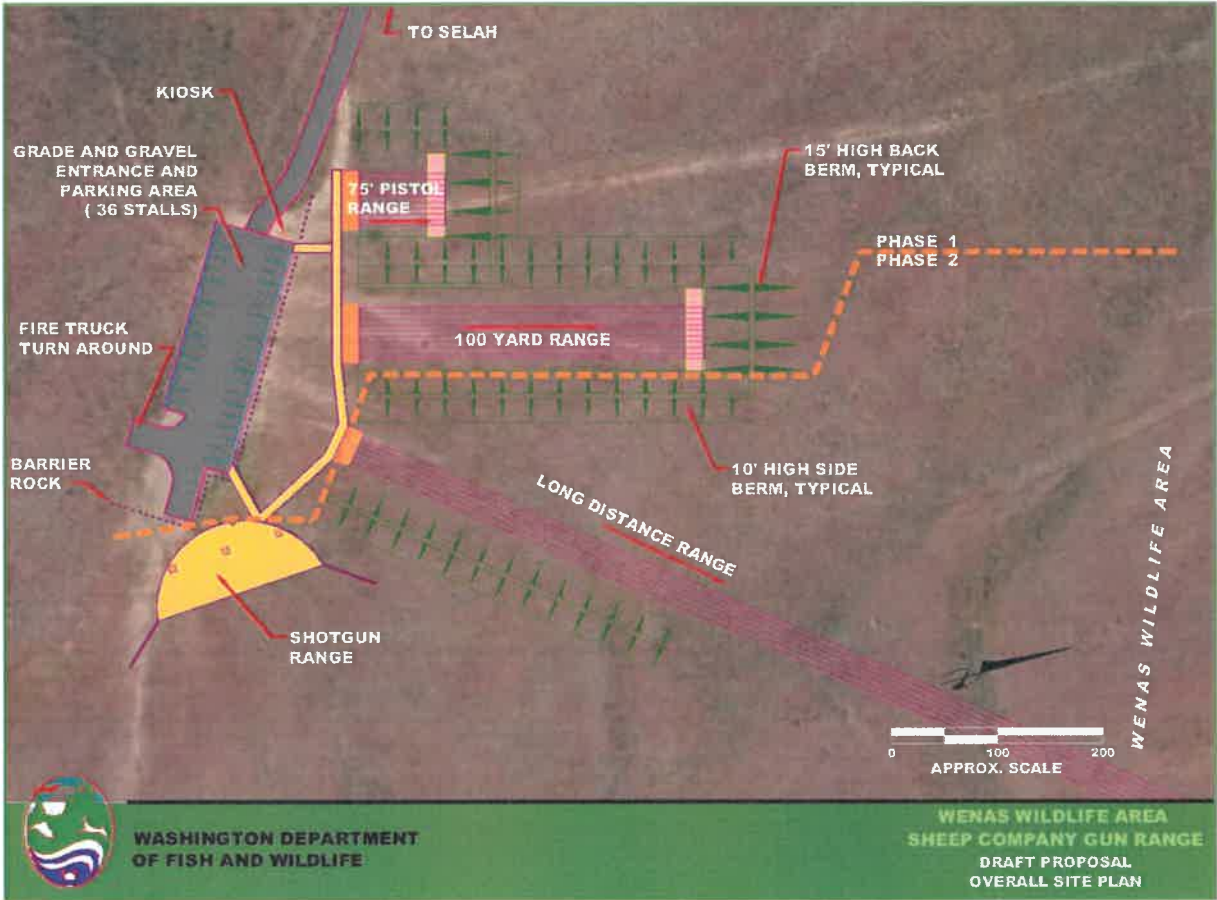




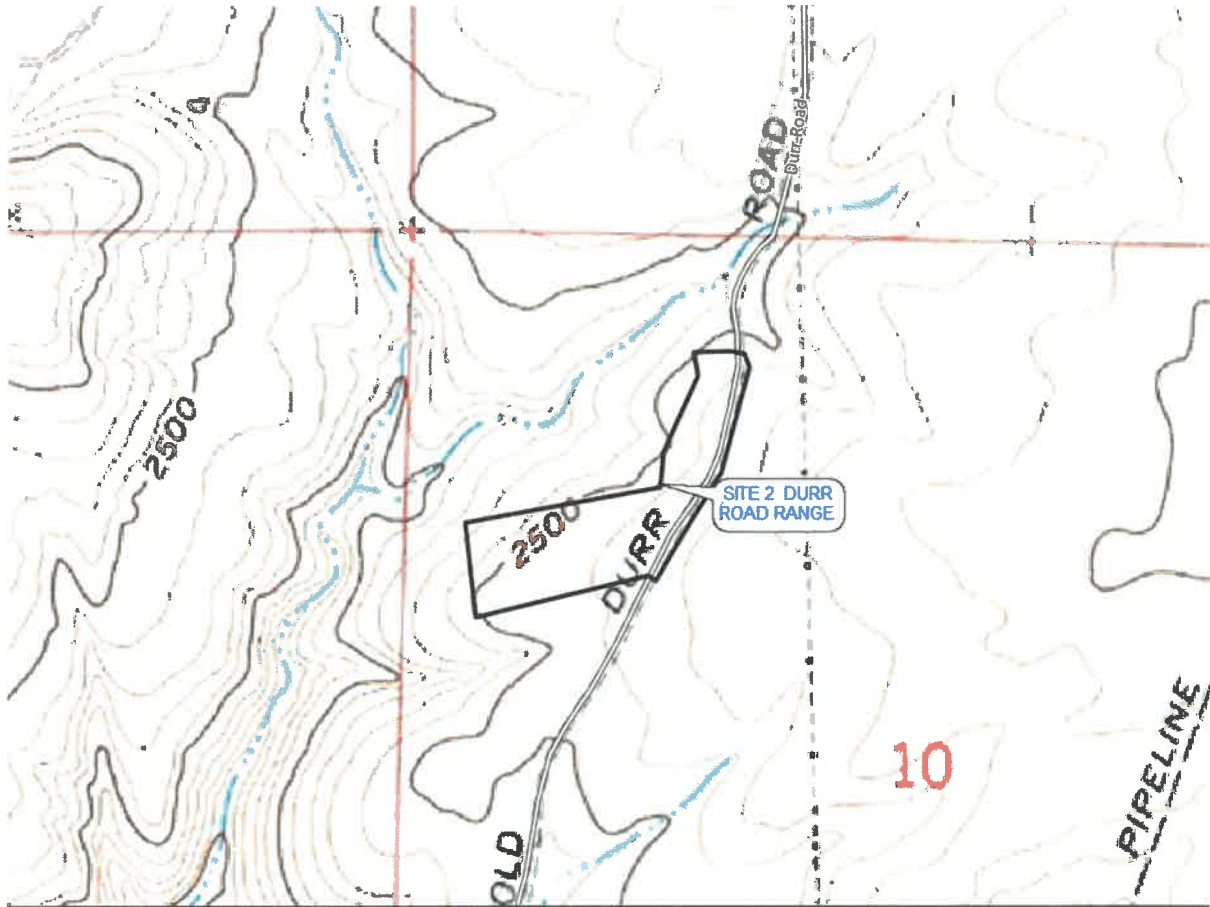
WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE



WENAS WILDLIFE AREA
SHEEP COMPANY RANGE
DRAFT PROPOSAL
OVERALL SITE PLAN



Maps Action 2-Durr Road Target Shooting Improvement Area and Proposed Layout for Phase 1 and Phase 2.





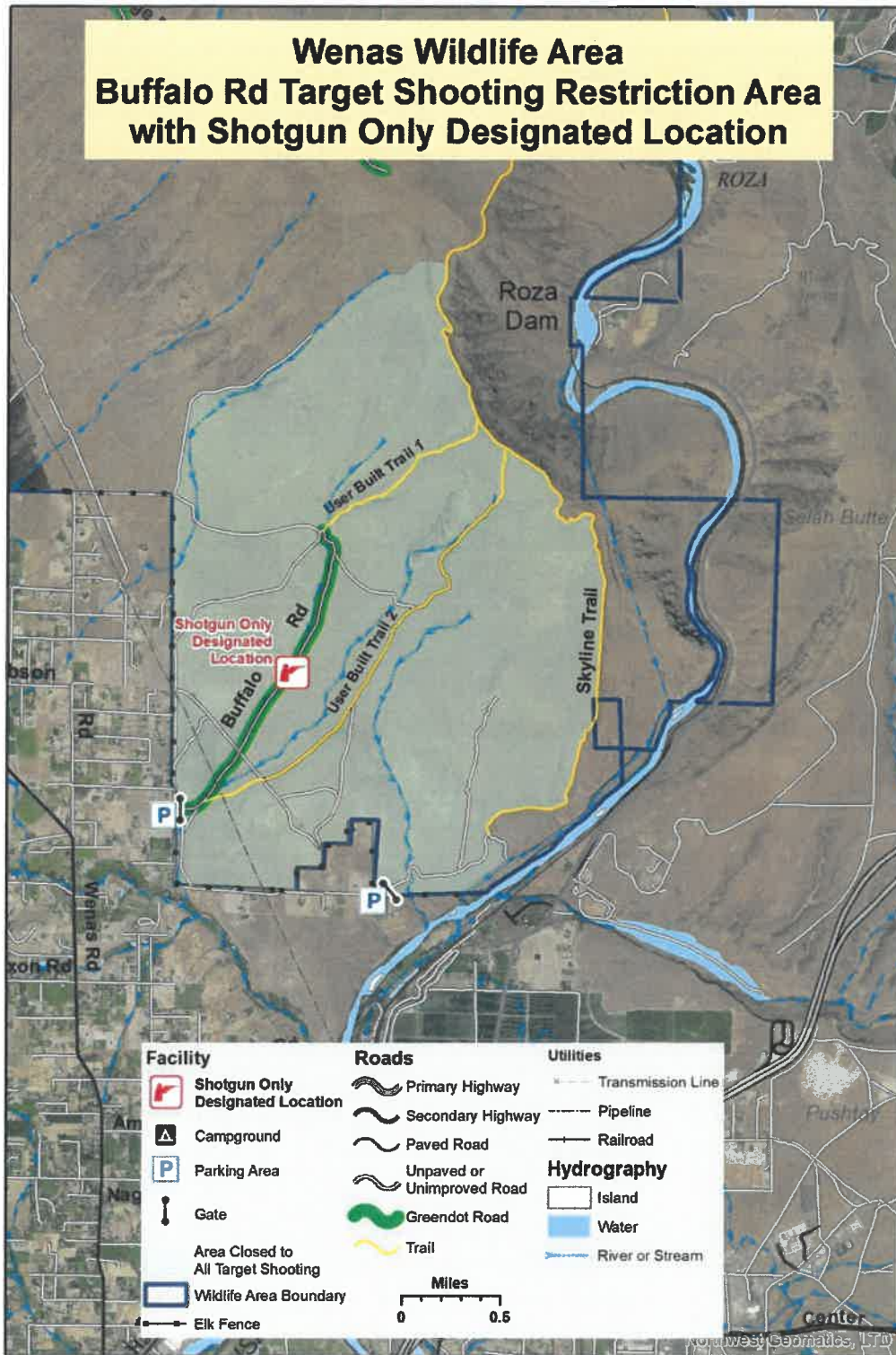




WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

WENAS WILDLIFE AREA
DURR ROAD RANGE
DRAFT PROPOSAL
100 YARD RANGE

Map Action 3: Boundary of Buffalo Road Target Shooting Restriction Area with Designated Shotgun Only Location.



Map Action 4- Wenas Wildlife Area Seasonal Target Shooting Timing Restriction. Wildlife Area Boundary outlined in blue.

