

WAC 220-500-140: Firearms and target practicing

Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

June 12, 2020

Outline

- Introductions
 - Who is on the Call
 - Goals for Rule Update
 - Timeline
- Process to Date
- Draft Rule Overview
- Public Engagement
- Range Development
- Q&A





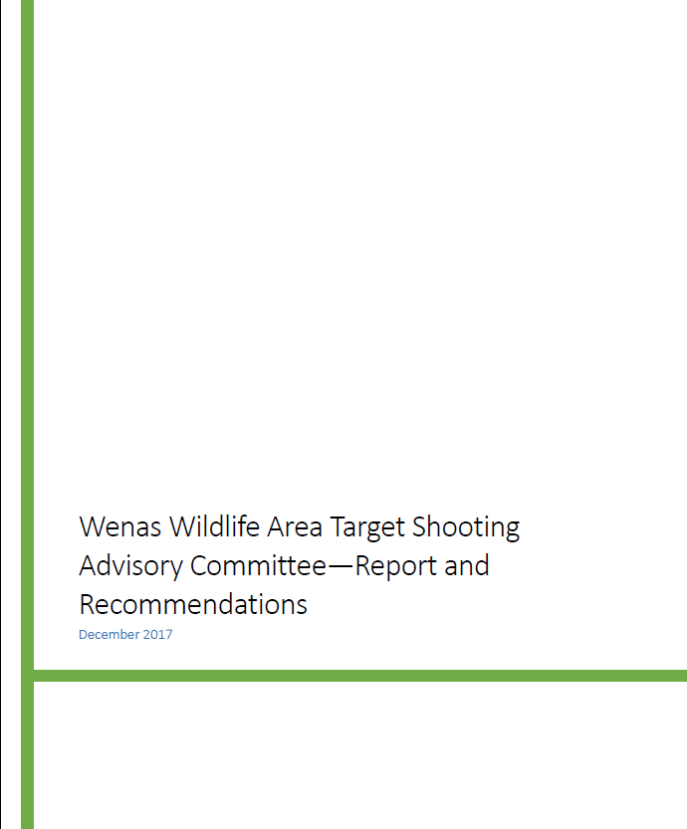
Goals for Rulemaking

- Continue to provide shooting opportunities
- Protect public safety
- Protect habitat
- Reduce shooter confusion due to discrepancies with rules on adjacent lands



Rule Development Process To Date

- Wenas Target Shooting Advisory Committee (WTSAC)
- WDFW “Large Group” and Rule Subgroup draft
- Comment Review



Wenas Wildlife Area Target Shooting
Advisory Committee—Report and
Recommendations

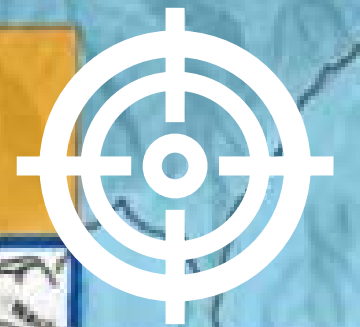
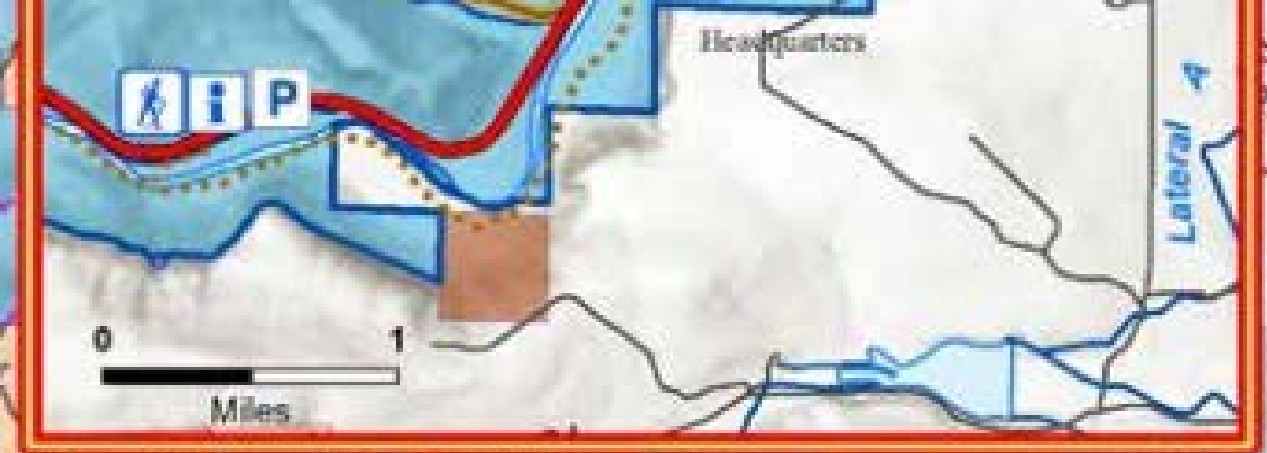
December 2017

16 Recommendations in 4 Categories

- A. Better education and outreach activities and resources
- B. Enforcement to follow rule clarification and education
- C. Enhancement of select sites for concentrated shooting
- D. Phased implementation and continued engagement with the Advisory Committee.

Collaboration with DNR

- DFW draft rule builds off of DNR rule
- Differences between DNR and draft rule
- Next steps with DNR



Draft Rule Overview

- Definition of recreational target shooting
- General target shooting restrictions
- Prohibited ammunition
- Where target shooting is allowed
- Where target shooting is prohibited
- When target shooting is prohibited
- Allowable targets



Definition of Recreational Target Shooting

The act of shooting projectiles for practice, sighting in, or other reasons, and involves the discharging of firearms, air guns, air bows, crossbows, or archery equipment.

Recreational target shooting does not include the activity of lawful hunting or hunting dog training.



General Restrictions

- WDFW may designate or restrict locations, times, and manner for recreational target shooting consistent with resource management concerns, management agreements or requirements, recreational use compatibility, or public safety concerns.
- Open unless posted closed or otherwise restricted by rule
- Persons are responsible for knowing other laws



Prohibited Ammunition

Tracer bullets or shells, incendiary ammunition, or steel core bullets.



Where Target Shooting is Allowed

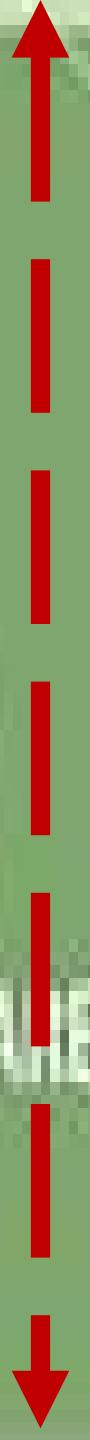
- Where a reasonable person would believe is free of risk to person, animals, property
- Firearms using single projectile ammo of .17 caliber or greater or shot equal to or greater than BB; or compressed air shooting ≥ 800 f/s
 - On designated shooting areas
 - With backstop (not required with shotguns) as defined in rule
- using (1) archery equipment, crossbows, air bows, or (2) shotguns discharging shot smaller than size BB, is permitted:
 - On designated shooting areas
 - Where reasonable person...



Place target at base of backstop.
Use only materials manufactured
for target shooting as targets.



8+ feet



AREA 5
E

Where Shooting is Prohibited

- On, from, at, along, across, or down...
 - Water access areas
 - Roads and designated trails
 - Utility lines, poles, light posts
 - Any water body or stream
- Within 500 feet of...
 - Structures
 - Utilities
 - Campgrounds
 - Viewing platforms or structures
- In other areas posted restricted



When Target Shooting is Allowed

- ½-hour before sunrise to ½-hour after sunset (mirrors DNR's rule)



Allowable Targets

- Commercially manufactured targets or similar privately manufactured
- Steel targets within a designated shooting area or outside a designated area Oct 1-May 31
- Biodegradable clay targets



Prohibited Targets

- Buildings;
- Power stations, cell phone towers, utility poles, light posts, wind turbines, or other public utility structures;
- Gates, fence posts or rails;
- Vehicles, or parts thereof;
- Machinery, or parts thereof;
- Signs, kiosks, or informational panels of any kind;
- Appliances or electronics;
- Furniture;
- Pallets;
- Glass;
- Explosive and incendiary items, including binary exploding targets (i.e. Tannerite);
- Containers of liquids, chemicals, paints, or compressed gas;
- Standing or moving water;
- Live or dead trees or other vegetation;
- Animals or animal carcasses.



Litter

Unlawful to fail to remove and transport from WDFW lands for proper disposal all:

- shell casings
- shotgun hulls
- ammunition packaging
- targets & target debris
- (excludes biodegradable clay targets)

Failure to remove any such item is prohibited and constitutes littering.

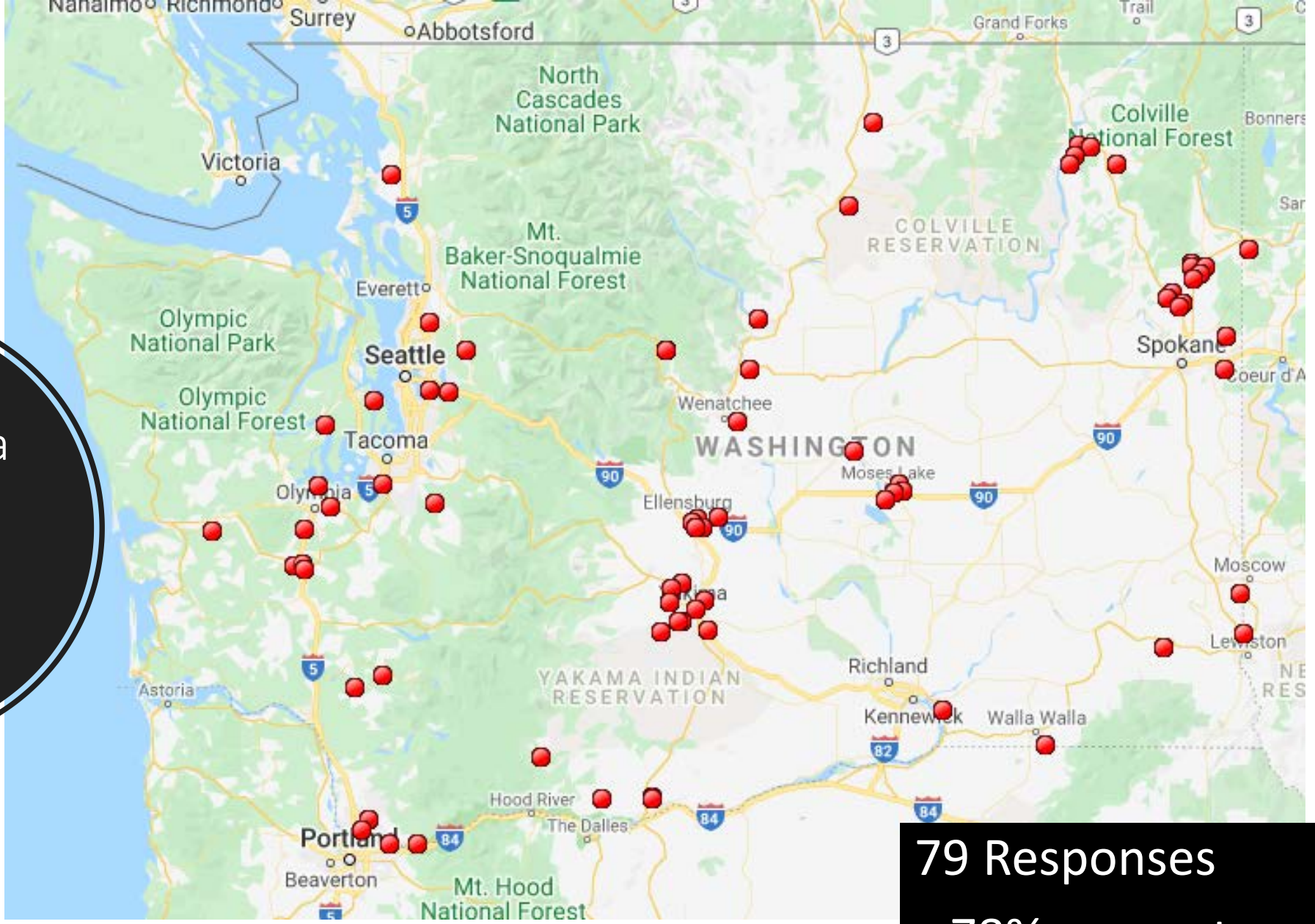




Public Engagement

- Engage legislators in review of early draft
- Website with FAQs
- Re-engage Wenas TSAC
- Direct outreach to Wildlife Area Advisory Committees
- Press Release
- Survey 2
- Education and outreach to shooters upon adoption

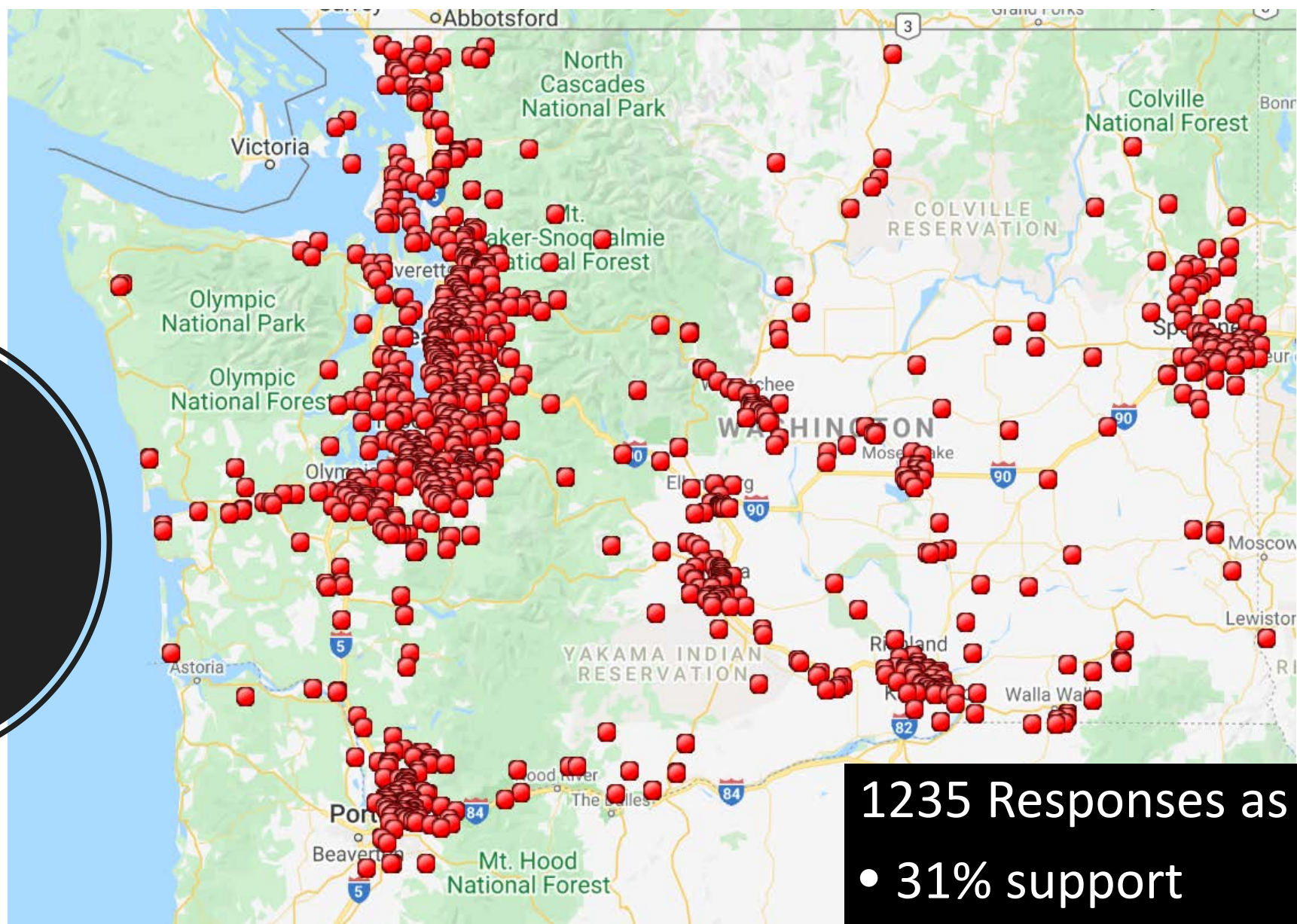
Wildlife Area
Advisory
Committee
Feedback



79 Responses

- 78% support
- 22% do not support

Survey 2



1235 Responses as of 6/8

- 31% support
- 51% do not support
- 17% unsure



Frequent Comments

- Restricting shooting is unconstitutional
- Restrict shooting to designated ranges
- Allow steel core ammunition and steel targets all seasons
- Ban lead ammunition to protect wildlife
- Clarify language, avoid legalese
- Increase fines and enforcement for litter
- Clarify closure process
- Create more places to shoot
- Publish where it is okay to shoot

Timeline



2017-8

2019

2020

2021

Q&A