

# WDFW Target Shooting Rules Update Draft

1. The department may designate or restrict locations, times, and manner for recreational target shooting upon department land, consistent with resource management concerns, management agreements or requirements, recreational use compatibility, or public safety concerns.
2. Persons must not recreationally target shoot on department land except as provided by this section.
3. Department land is open to recreational target shooting under the conditions set forth in this section, unless closed or otherwise restricted by this section or by any department-posted signage or notice.
  - a. Notwithstanding the allowances by this section, recreational target shooting is only permitted where a reasonable person, in consideration of all attendant circumstances, would believe the area between the person and the target, and the area beyond the target, is free of risk to person, animals, or property.
  - b. Unless otherwise posted, recreational target shooting is only allowed one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.
  - c. Recreational target shooting using (1) firearms firing single projectile ammunition of .17 caliber or greater or shot equal to or greater than BB; or (2) compressed gas or air guns capable of shooting any projectile at over 800 feet per second, is permitted only:
    - i. On department-designated recreational target shooting areas and in compliance with posted regulations; or
    - ii. In other areas containing an earthen backstop, as defined (reference to Definitions), which must be utilized while target shooting. A backstop is not required while using shotguns discharging shot smaller than size BB. Targets must be placed in front of and within 8 feet of the backstop, and the person must be shooting at the lower half of the backstop.
  - d. Recreational target shooting using (1) archery equipment, crossbows, air bows, or (2) shotguns discharging shot smaller than size BB, is permitted:
    - i. On department-designated recreational target shooting areas and in compliance with posted regulations; or
    - ii. In other areas consistent with subsection (3)(a).
  - e. Recreational target shooting is specifically prohibited:
    - i. On, from, at, along, across, or down:
      - i. Any department-designated or -developed water access site or boat launch, and associated parking area;

- ii. Any road;
    - iii. Any utility line, utility poles, or light posts;
    - iv. Any department-designated trail;
    - v. Any water body or stream.
  - ii. Within 500 feet of the following (when not utilizing a department-designated recreational target shooting area):
    - i. Residences, businesses, and/or other buildings or structures, including port-a-potties, etc.;
    - ii. Power stations, cell phone towers, utility poles, light posts, wind turbines, or other public utility structures;
    - iii. Campgrounds;
    - iv. Viewing platforms or structures;
  - iii. In other areas posted by the department as restricted from shooting.
4. Authorized targets for use on department lands are restricted to items, other than exploding targets, that are commercially manufactured for the specific purpose of target shooting, or similar targets privately manufactured that are consistent with this section, and as further restricted below.
- a. Steel targets that are manufactured for the specific purpose of target shooting are allowed subject to the following restrictions:
    - i. When used on a department-designated recreational target shooting area, steel targets that are manufactured for the specific purpose of target shooting are allowed year-round.
    - ii. When used outside a department-designated recreational target shooting area, steel targets that are manufactured for the specific purpose of target shooting are allowed from October 1 to May 31, unless otherwise posted.
  - b. Clay targets, when used, must be biodegradable clay targets.
  - c. Items prohibited to be used as targets or to hold or post targets include but are not limited to:
    - i. Buildings;
    - ii. Power stations, cell phone towers, utility poles, light posts, wind turbines, or other public utility structures;
    - iii. Gates, fence posts, or rails;
    - iv. Vehicles, or parts thereof;
    - v. Machinery, or parts thereof;
    - vi. Signs, kiosks, or informational panels of any kind;
    - vii. Appliances or electronics;
    - viii. Furniture;
    - ix. Pallets;
    - x. Glass;

- xi. Explosive and incendiary items, including binary exploding targets (i.e. Tannerite);
  - xii. Containers of liquids, chemicals, paints, or compressed gas;
  - xiii. Standing or moving water;
  - xiv. Live or dead trees or other vegetation;
  - xv. Animals or animal carcasses.
- 5. The discharge of tracer bullets or shells, incendiary ammunition, or steel core bullets, is specifically prohibited on all department lands.
- 6. At all times, it is unlawful for a person to discharge a firearm, crossbow, bow, or any other projectile shooting implement on department lands in a reckless or negligent manner. A violation of this subsection may be punishable under [RCW 77.15.230](#), [RCW 77.15.460](#), [RCW 9A.36.050](#), [RCW 9A.36.031](#), [RCW 9A.36.021](#), [RCW 9A.32.070](#), [RCW 9A.32.060](#), or other relevant statute depending on the circumstances of the violation.
- 7. It is unlawful for persons recreationally target shooting to fail to remove and transport from department lands for proper disposal all shell casings, shotgun hulls, ammunition packaging, and targets or target debris. Failure to remove any such item is prohibited and constitutes littering.
- 8. Persons who recreationally target shoot are responsible for knowing other state, local, or federal laws that may govern their shooting activity, and compliance with this rule does not guarantee compliance with other applicable laws.