

5/27/2015

Commissioner Todd Mielke, Chair
Commissioner Shelly O'Quinn, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Al French

Re: Spokane County Shooting Area Advisory Committee/Three (3) No Shooting Area Petitions

On Monday, May 18, the Spokane County Shooting Area Advisory Committee (SCSAAC) held a public hearing to receive public testimony from area citizens and petitioners involving three petitions that include WA State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) property. Petitions submitted include:

- A. DNR/Denison-Chattaroy Area – No Shooting Area Petition
- B. DNR/Bowie Road Area - No Shooting with Restricted Shooting Area Petition
- C. DNR/South Bank Road Area – No Shooting Area Petition

Personal testimony was heard from thirty (30) citizens. Comments were both for and against the closing of petitioned properties and weighed heavily in favor of closing the DNR lands due to safety and shooting violations by shooters, as well as damage to the trees, trash dumping and in one case in the South Bank area, bullet holes found in the exterior walls of a resident's home..

Testimony was also heard from DNR Representative Andrew Stenbeck and Spokane County Sheriff Deputy David Morris. DNR District Manager Stenbeck was supportive of the decisions and recommendations to be made by the SCSAAC, as was Deputy Morris. Deputy Morris and Mr. Stenbeck both advised the people attending how to currently address the situation in the three petition areas by advising who to call and the expected results, when a shooting threat or violation occurred. The hearing adjourned after all citizens testified.

On Tuesday, May 26, 2015, the SCSAAC met to discuss and vote on the actions to be recommended to the Spokane County Commissioners. Additional consideration was given to the many emails received from the public concerning the three DNR areas in the petitions. The overwhelming majority of emails were also in favor of closing the three areas.

After some discussion and debate, the SCSAAC voted to recommend the following action on these three DNR properties:

DNR/Denison-Chattaroy Road Area – No Shooting Area Petition

Petitioned for: No Shooting Area

SAAC Recommendation: No Shooting with Restricted Shooting

Although the original petition indicated a proposed designation of “No Shooting”, the committee concluded that area should be designated a "No Shooting with Restricted Shooting". This designation allows the use of shotguns during hunting season. (Per RCW 6.06.150)

DNR/Bowie Road Area – No Shooting with Restricted Shooting Petition

Petitioned for: No Shooting with Restricted Shooting

Recommendation: No Shooting with Restricted Shooting

Due to the high number of incidents adversely affecting the nearby residents and their use of this DNR land, that this property be closed to all shooting and declared a "No Shooting with Restricted Shooting Area".

DNR/South Bank Road Area – No Shooting Area Petition

Petitioned for: No Shooting

Recommendation: No Shooting

Due to the high number of incidents adversely affecting the nearby residents and their use of this DNR land, as well as the excessive dumping of trash and damage to the property, that this property be closed to all shooting and declared a "No Shooting Area".

Respectfully Submitted,

David Bray, Chair

Spokane County Shooting Area Advisory Committee