



**Snohomish County**  
Parks and Recreation

**Aaron Reardon**  
County Executive

(425) 388-6600  
FAX (425) 388-6645

April 22, 2008

**RECEIVED**

APR 25 2008

**NW REGION**  
1701 Egge Road  
Snohomish, WA 98296

Paul McFarland, Manager Northwest Region  
Washington State Department of Natural Resources  
919 N Township Street  
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284-9384

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Snohomish County Shooting Range

Dear Mr. McFarland,

It has been brought to my attention that there is a concern that Snohomish County has not shown a long-term planning commitment to the establishment of a shooting range and has not, in a comprehensive way, identified a site on which to build and operate a range. The specific statement that I was made aware of was that Snohomish County did not identify a site in the 2007 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan for Snohomish County.

A shooting range is identified as special use facility supporting the recreational shooting planning opportunity in the 2007 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan for Snohomish County. Unlike community parks, for which Snohomish County established a park impact mitigation fee, a level of service was not established for regional parks, neighborhood parks, trails, open space/preserve parks or special use parks. General areas for community parks were identified, in compliance with the State of Washington Growth Management Act, in areas where population growth would support the purchase of property and construction of a new community park. This was not done for any other variety of park. Locating parks, including a special use park, depends more on opportunity, special locational needs, and availability of funding. It would require a separate and unique feasibility study, public planning process, site identification procedure, environmental analysis and local legislative review and approval.

It is not a stretch to say that Snohomish County has been interested in developing a shooting range for the last thirty years. Serious investigations began in the early 1990's and culminated in a Final Report and Feasibility Study that was published in 1994. The report looked at site selection, shooting range elements, operational models, and financial feasibility. An addendum was generated in 1998 that dealt primarily with site identification and analysis and

selected a site on property managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on the Sultan Basin Road as the primary site for the proposed range. There were a number of community meetings and public information opportunities. To make sure that the selected primary site would work for the range, an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) was generated and a draft was published and distributed to the public in 2002. The final EIS followed and determined that the site would be appropriate for a shooting range. That finding was not appealed. There was always the understanding that another EIS would be necessary at such time as the construction of the range is proposed.

A motion was passed by the Snohomish County Council at this time directing completion of the process of reconveyance of the property from the DNR. The intervening time has been spent completing the documentation required by the DNR that would support the reconveyance. That included a study determining the potential impact on the Marbled Murrelet, an endangered species.

After an extensive good faith planning process, the generation of a plan and supporting documentation and the support of local elected officials and the project constituency, Snohomish County feels that the next step in the process, the reconveyance, is in order. The engineering and design process will have its own unique challenges and the construction and operation of a range will have its own set of opportunities and considerations.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



Tom Teigen, Director  
Snohomish County Parks