

To Council Chairperson and Council Members

Input Statement for the Nov 6, 2019 Council Special Committee of the Whole meeting regarding the Blaine City Council request to amend Whatcom County Code 9.32 to establish a No Shooting Zone in the whole of Drayton Harbor in Whatcom County.

Arguments in favor of this Blaine proposal and amendment of Whatcom County Code 9.32 by Andrew Scoular on behalf of Local Residents in Whatcom UGA at Drayton Harbor and the Dakota Creek border with the City of Blaine.

Majority

The majority of the Drayton Harbor population (+5000) live in urban areas around Drayton Harbor.

They live in the expanding city of Blaine and Whatcom county Urban Growth Areas. Drayton Harbor is by no means a rural area, and is not suitable for rural area hunting activities.

The majority access Drayton Harbor for recreation – kayaking, canoeing, fishing, bird watching, walking, children playing.

The majority, as represented by Blaine councilmembers, and the Dearborn Ave No Shoot Zone petition in our UGA, support the complete ban of shooting (and therefore hunting) at Drayton Harbor.

Subjugated to the sport of the minority

When the sport of hunting, practiced by the minority, is active, all other recreation activities have to cease.

The majority of property tax paying residents of the Drayton Harbor Area are therefore subjugated to the sport of the minority, because no other recreation is possible (and safe) when a few people are roaming around in boats, with guns, hunting birds.

Also subjugated to the minority are our guests and visitors to Drayton Harbor, at Semiahmoo Resort and Spa and golf courses, Audubon Society bird watchers and nature lovers, Wings Over Water supporters who visit many times in the year, and visitors driving the scenic (and mostly 25MPH) Drayton Harbor Rd. They deserve to be safe and protected from potential harm.

Safety first for families

None of the residential families will volunteer themselves or their children to be the first casualty of a hunting mishap.

If kids and other family members wish to access Drayton Harbor through the public access areas, their lives could be in great danger.

Just because there have been no hunting related incidences or accidents in the past does not guarantee a safe future for the growing population around Drayton Harbor.

DISTRIBUTED TO
NOV 05 2019
ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS
WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

Spiritual sanctity of quiet Sundays and weekends

Who wants to have the private spiritual sanctity of their Saturday or Sunday morning shattered by hunters roaming around Drayton Harbor?

Can any council members empathize?

Do any of you live in an active shooting zone for 3 months of the year?

Hunting activities may start as early as 5am by errant hunters who utilize easily available night vision technologies, or as early as 7am by those hunters who are willing to comply with broad-based regulations.

Many residents have called local police in the past only to be told hunting is inevitable due to the rights of hunters being greater than the rights of local residents.

Most people give up calling the police because the police are not able to help.

The fewer the number of phone calls does not mean people are OK with the hunters, it means people are silently growing in frustration at the inability of the authorities to help solve the problem.

Options

There is so much of Whatcom county that is rural and suited to the rural traditions of hunting.

Drayton Harbor is not the only venue for tribal or non-tribal hunters.

Drayton Harbor may be the only local venue for many families to enjoy all the available non-hunting PNW activities.

The department of fish and wildlife earns revenue from hunting licenses, but their extremely scarce resources are unable to manage the hunters.

Picture a group of hunters chasing a kill, is anyone managing their co-ordinates and measuring their distance from shorelines and non-existent 'no shoot' boundary markers?

By the time the rangers get to Drayton Harbor from some far flung part of their territory, the infraction is no longer current, in fact the perpetrators may easily have left the area.

The rangers may never get to Drayton Harbor on the day of contention, if they do indeed even work 7 days a week.

With no active management of hunters, their weapons, their ammunition, their navigation around Drayton Harbor, there is greater insecurity on the part of local residents, and greater potential for damage to property and harming of life.

Summary:

Please do not put property tax payers at risk from property damage and harm to their life.

Please do not diminish the value of your plans for future development of Drayton Harbor area, plan for it now by declaring a no shoot zone for the whole of Drayton Harbor.

Please amend Whatcom County Code 9.32 to establish a No Shooting Zone in Drayton Harbor.