



State of Washington  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

North Puget Sound • Region 4 • 16018 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek, WA 98012-1296  
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May 5, 2021

Dear Whatcom County Council,

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed Non-Shooting Zone for Drayton and Dearborn Harbor. These areas are important recreational areas to the citizens of Washington and are co-managed by the Point Elliott Treaty Tribes and the WDFW.

WDFW regulates hunting and prioritizes public safety in establishment of hunting regulations throughout the State. The current hunting season in Drayton and Dearborn Harbors is very restricted for firearms and season length. The hunting seasons in these two areas run approximately October towards end of December for big game and towards end of January for waterfowl. WDFW Enforcement officers are the primary responders to hunting and public safety issues in these areas during the hunting seasons. Enforcement reports indicate little to no public safety issues.

According to the Revised Code of Washington 9.41.300 (2)(a): (2) *Cities, towns, counties, and other municipalities may enact laws and ordinances: (a) Restricting the discharge of firearms in any portion of their respective jurisdictions where there is a reasonable likelihood that humans, domestic animals, or property will be jeopardize;* and according to the Whatcom County Code 9.32 Unlawful Discharge of Firearms: *the Council may initiate the creation of a non shooting zone if it would be in the best interest of public health, safety, and welfare* WDFW has not documented or responded to any incidents that fall into the above categories and would like to respectfully request any documented examples related to above examples collected by the following county departments: prosecutors office, sheriff's office, planning department, public works department and any other applicable departments. This data will allow state, Tribal, and local law enforcement officers to have a more robust discussion and brainstorm solutions.

WDFW is willing to work with local city and county departments to find solutions including education related to legal shooting hours, hunting boundaries, and other concerns from the community. WDFW looks forward to working with Whatcom County and the City of Blaine to continuing to provide recreational opportunities to the citizens of Washington and responding to public safety issues when they arise.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further,

*Fenner Yarborough*

Fenner Yarborough  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Wildlife Regional Program Manager