#### Information Update as of February 12, 2017



### Washington Sporting Dog Training Association



























The Washington Sporting Dog Training Association is a non-profit statewide collective of sporting dog clubs in Washington State. We are organized to provide a major, unified voice to advocate on behalf of sporting dog owners to ensure local, state and federal agencies are responsive to the dog training and competition event needs of owners of sporting dogs. Historical dog training locations – including properties that were purchased for dog training – have been diverted to other uses, or restricted so severely as to be rendered inadequate for dog training and dog events. The historical sporting dog uses of such properties need to be respected, and fully restored. Additional training event grounds are also needed. The WSDTA welcomes the participation and support of clubs and individuals who are supportive of WSDTA's efforts.

## WSDTA Stakeholder Discussions with WDFW, FWC and Legislators over use of Public Lands in the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area

**April 11 2016:** WDFW held a public scoping meeting regarding the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area (SWA)

- An overwhelming number of dog training enthusiasts were present
- WDFW discussed the development of a new ten year management plan
- WDFW was not prepared to discuss the dog training issue
- Dog training enthusiasts were allowed to list their concerns with the primary concern being the loss of training grounds at the Cherry Valley site

**April 2016,** a couple of individuals contacted the Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) with their concerns

- Question how do we raise our issues to a level above WDFW
- It was recommended that dog clubs write letters to the Commission
- Six dog clubs wrote to FWC expressing the concerns of the dog training community

**June 10, 2016:** Jim and Cindy provided public testimony regarding the dog training issues relating to the SWA

Larry Carpenter, the FWC's Vice Chair, was assigned to follow up on this issue

**As a result of the April and June meetings**, WDFW agreed to meet with representatives of several clubs forming what WDFW refers to as the 'dog training sub-group' (DTS)

**June 30, 2016:** WDFW held its first meeting with the DTS

- Sub-group meeting rules were discussed
- The public scoping meeting concerns were reviewed
- WDFW manager, Brian Boehm, stated that historical use of the SWA held no significance moving forward

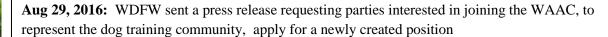
**Aug 18, 2016**: DTS requested better representation on the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Advisory Committee (WAAC)

- Previously the WAAC had included representation from user dog clubs but that position was dropped from the WAAC
- WDFW agreed to consider our position that the dog training community was not adequately represented by the individuals specified as "dog trainers"
- The importance of having ponds available for training was discussed
  - It was noted that WDFW was allowing the ponds to die, go back to marshes
  - Crops are currently planted around the ponds

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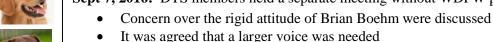
## Washington Sporting Dog Training Association

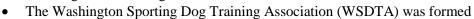


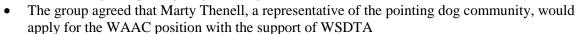








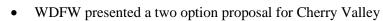


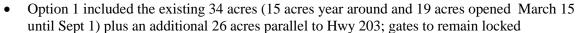


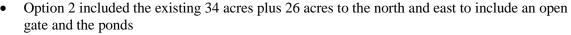
A press release was sent out and training clubs were notified and invited to join

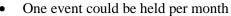


Sept 15, 2016: WDFW meets with DTS to present the first Draft WDFW Dog Training Area Proposal (V3)





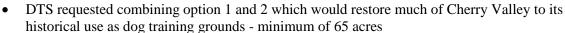


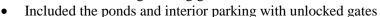


DTS was requested to respond by Sept 28 with their comments



Sept 25, 2016: DTS responds to the initial plan with these key points





- Defined non hunting season as Sept 15 Jan 31st
- A commitment to eventually allow up to 125 acres for dog training

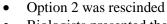




Oct 20, 2016: Marty Thenell was confirmed as the new member on the WAAC, providing dog clubs with a voice on the advisory committee.



Dec 12, 2016: WDFW presented Draft WDFW Dog Training Area Proposal (V11). The meeting with DTS included two WDFW biologists. Also attending were other dog training enthusiasts allowed a voice after the close of discussion with DTS members.



- Biologists presented the view that dogs were hazardous to wildlife
- One biologist stated, "our land, our rules"
- DTS reminded the biologists that the SWA is public land





Jan. 19, 2016: WSDTA met to discuss further options to obtain training and trial grounds with the following key topics



- Continue to press Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) to add our issues to their agenda
- See how other clubs deal with fish & wildlife in their states
- Discussed meeting planned for the near term with WDFW and legislators





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## Washington Sporting Dog Training Association



Where does WSDTA go from here

upland bird and waterfowl only



Follow up on applications - add pointing dog training groups



Create Facebook page Form a legal entity, look at fund raising (lease or purchase land, legal fees)



Jan 24, 2017: Barbara Hawley along with Cindy and Jim Olson, as representatives of WSDTA, met with the Regional 4 director, Bob Everitt.



Positive discussions and concessions were made for our needs, minimum of 65 acres, unlocked gate, access to the ponds and interior parking, shortened "defined" the hunting season to be



Subsequent phone calls indicated that we were again back at the beginning



Jan 25, 2017: Cal Palmer and Marty Thenell meet with Eric Gardner with WDFW to discuss the future of the SWA's



- The future use of Cherry Valley, Stillwater, Crescent Lake and Ebey Island as dog training grounds was discussed.
- Discussions went well, Eric was already aware of the Jan 24th meeting



Jan 31, 2017: Barbara Hawley, Jim and Cindy Olson met with Senator Pearson and Senator Braun to discuss WSDTA need and use of public lands in the SWA

Senator Pearson agreed to contact Bob Everitt on our behalf



Feb 8, 2017: The latest draft of the Bird Dog Training Area Plan is received by DTS



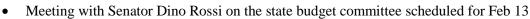
Responses are due to WDFW by March 1st



Feb 21st WSDTA is holding a meeting to review the document and to craft a response



#### **Future Agenda for WSDTA**





WSDTA has contacted Tami Lininger with FWC to request our issues be added to their agenda for action.



On Feb 7 Tami confirmed she has received our documentation and is working on having WDFW do a briefing for the Commission.



We will contact everyone so we can go down and give public testimony to the FWC,



possibly March 17 and 18 Marty Thenell will learn more about the practicality of crop rotation on public lands from local



farmers currently using the land and see if we can influence Brian Boehm's crop rotation plan



WSDTA agreed to formalize with the idea of using the California Retriever Association constitution and by laws as a template

WSDTA recognizes the need to secure future training grounds



WSDTA recognizes the need to locate funds through donations and/or grants to move forward

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#### Note - Key Points:



1) The SWA was purchased with grant money from the Federal Government Outdoor Recreation Act to insure public lands for public use



2) The Stillwater purchase agreement describes 480 acres in the Game Department's own words as 'ideal for dog training and trials'



3) WDFW insists dog trainers are just a small stakeholder group despite their surveys and documentation that shows dog trainers are the majority users



4) WDFW have removed the words 'dog training' from their ten year management plan



In Closing: This is our first update since the September 9th press release. We plan to have more

updates as we continue to move through this process.



#### Please Direct Inquiries to:



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