

Attention Members.

**We need your help to preserve and prevent the loss of Scatter Creek for dog exercising, training, hunt testing and field trialing.**

All of our dog owners need to help fight so that we do not to lose Scatter Creek and soon other areas under attack.

We fought them for **Marymoor** off leash Dog area and won, we now need to combine our efforts to do the same for Scatter Creek. Please contact other dog owners and Dog Clubs to help.

We have the support of **Representative Jim McCune** in our quest to maintain our original rights to Scatter Creek that we have had for the last half century.

**Here's how you can help – it will only take a few minutes of your time via email.**

- 1) Google Washington State Legislatures
- 2) Click on the link
- 3) Click on find your legislature
- 4) Type in your Street Address (PO will not work)
- 5) A map and names of you Senator and Representatives will pop up
- 6) Click on the person's name
- 7) Click on Home page, at the bottom of the home page
- 8) Click on e-mail address and type in your short message regarding McCune's letter or see below message to include.

One or two short sentences is all you need to type.

**What to say:**

Scatter Creek is in danger of being shut down for public use for dog owners. It was dedicated on 1964 and the first field trial was held in 1950. It should remain open to the public. Please support the continued ability of Scatter Creek to remain open to the public.

OR Scatter Creek needs to be kept open for all public use, too many of public grounds are being closed to the public.

Remember to thank them for your support.

**We want to make sure everyone understands that this is not just about Scatter Creek.** We are in danger of losing **Charlie Miller, Ritzville** and **Boyce Corrals**. It is only a matter of time.

What we need everyone to do **TODAY** is contact the Senators and Representatives from their district. Please forward this to anyone you know from back country horseman or other dog clubs. It does not matter if you have retrievers, do dog shows, rally or anything else with a dog they need to hear from us.

We are gaining momentum and if we do not do this today or we will be out permanently and they will win and go after more public grounds.

We can't lose this fight, **please take couple minutes and act NOW**

**Below our NWFCT letter to Rep. Jim McCune.**

February 18, 2010

The Honorable Jim McCune

Washington House of Representatives

413 John L. O'Brien Building

P.O. Box 40600

Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative McCune:

Subject: Scatter Creek Recreation Area

The Northwest Field Trial Council (NWFTC) wants to once again thank you for your support these past many months in helping us to maintain access to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Scatter Creek Recreational Area for bird dog training and conducting American Kennel Club field trials and hunt tests. Unfortunately, we are in a position where we must ask for your continued support on this matter.

We write to you in response to WDFW's new use rules, which continue to be a moving target. Based in their rules finalized this month, Scatter Creek North has been effectively lost as a site for any walking trials or hunt tests, since horses are banned altogether. Moreover, Scatter Creek South is no longer able to fulfill its WDFW-designated status as an effective backup site to their Koopmans Farm, for the horseback field trials. This was a firm commitment by WDFW just months ago, but more restrictive rules have now eliminated this possibility for our typical trials. The WDFW's biodiversity priorities and their habitat conservation plan (HCP) effort, cloaked under the subtly incestuous professional and financial-grants relationship with the USFW and EPA, have pressured further restrictions on these site.

Since I am copying other officials here who may not be aware of the current situation, I am including a brief history of Scatter Creek, which is near Rochester, Thurston County.

First, let us be clear that the two WDFW staff currently assigned to work with the NWFTC and its member clubs, Kyle Guzlas and Jim Gerchack, are being very helpful and certainly are not "the problem" that has led to the above result. However, it appears they must necessarily work within department policy directives and other internal and external (e.g., Nature Conservancy and other NGO's) organizational pressures that largely tie their hands. We take issue with many of those policies and pressures, but not with these individuals.

Scatter Creek was purchased in 1964 expressly for the purposes of training bird dogs, field trialing bird dogs, and additional public recreation including horseback riding. On October 4, 1964 Governor Albert D. Rossellini, together with all members of the Washington State Game Commission, presided over dedication ceremonies at the property at the first field trial under state ownership. The property was acquired from a cattle rancher and long-time bird dog enthusiast. Literally hundreds of field trials have taken place on Scatter Creek in the more than 60 years that the NWFTC member clubs have used the site, and thousands of individual and small group training sessions have occurred there as well. Scatter Creek has been invaluable in the capacity it has served. Throughout the history of the property the field trial community has worked hand in hand with the WDFW to help improve and maintain Scatter Creek, volunteering both money and

countless labor hours. Projects have included dog-safe fencing of the property, rebuilding and painting the barn more than once, spreading fertilizer, and mowing and cutting of Scotch Broom, to name a few. We have also attempted to constructively collaborate with and adapt to WDFW's ever-evolving use rules to maintain some access, even with significant limitations.

The NWFTC is comprised of 28 member clubs from within its region of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia. These clubs are each typically comprised of 10-25 member individuals and families. We estimate the average annual expenditure for each participant, including travel, meals and lodging, supplies, entry fees, hay and feed, etc., is in the range of \$5-\$10,000/yr. Hence, the field trials and associated dog training recreation generate significant revenue for local businesses from the member clubs and from other contestants from as far away as Montana, Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona, and Alberta. This recreation activity is an important economic component of public recreation in the Northwest, at a time when alternative sites have become limited regionally, and non-existent in Western Washington.

The WDFW, under its priority goals of habitat enhancement and biodiversity, has been moving field trials off of Scatter Creek in recent years, through ever-changing rules that increasingly prevent us from conducting effective field trials under the American Kennel Club regulations. In fact, we can no longer even train dogs there during most of the year, according to the newest final rules. As described above, the WDFW originally purchased Scatter Creek for training and conducting hunting dog field trials, and just recently acquired the Koopmans Farm (\$1.2 million, near Oakville) for waterfowl, and West Rocky Prairie (\$2 million, near Olympia) for prairie restoration. Yet the rules at those sites have also become overly restrictive and dysfunctional for the bird dog recreation summarized above. The State of Washington continues to spend scant tax revenue, our hard-earned money, on properties that it then cannot afford to adequately maintain. Then rubbing salt into the wound, it is now removing a large group of users who both pay the tax burden and spend a lot out-of-pocket contribution to the economy.

As a group of outdoor enthusiasts and organized bird dog community, we do highly respect and conserve the environment, but not at the cost of public ground being lost from its original intended use, and from the recreating public in general for which it was purchased. Indeed, wildlife and habitat conservation are at the foundation of our very sport and enthusiasm for our animals. We understand there must be rules that apply to public property, but those rules should balance, not exclude, human use with other species. Our activities are not demonstrated to conflict with other plants and animals.

In fact, the HCP is in response to ESA requirements that are for a particular state-listed threatened butterfly species that is not present on the property nor has it so been for decades. WDFW is introducing it to Scatter Creek. Furthermore, were it not for the field trial community activity and care at this site, it would long since have become a gravel pit and/or housing development. The WDFW's end result with respect to both Scatter Creek units represents a large "taking" as they consider their HCP, and they would do well to instead cultivate multiple and varied uses of and support for such sites lest they eventually still become such untoward developments.

I am attaching our August 16, 2009, letter to you as background. The NWFTC

respectfully requests any interventions you might consider in an effort to reinstate Scatter Creek as the only remaining suitable grounds for bird dog related recreation as it has served for decades. We will be happy to provide additional information upon request. Thank you for your interest and continued support.

Respectfully,

NWFTC Lands Committee

Tina Lacey, 20th District

Dan Hoke, 9th District

Bryan Hogan, 17th District

Wayne Yamashita, 18th District

Jim House, 18th District

Irene Palmer, 2nd District

Cal Palmer, 2nd District

Attachments:

Letter NWFTC to Representative McCune, August 16, 2009

Member Clubs of the Northwest Field Trial Council

cc: Sen. Dan Swecker

Rep. Richard DeBolt

Rep. Gary Alexander

Sen. Joseph Zarelli

Rep. Jaime Herrera

Rep. Ed Orcutt

Sen. Don Benton

Sen. Randi Becker

Rep. Tom Campbell

Sen. Bob Morton

Rep. Joel Kretz

Sen. Chris Marr

Sen. Mark Schoesler

Rep. Susan Fagen

Rep. Joe Schmick

WDFW Director Phil Anderson

Fish and Wildlife Commission

Chair Miranda Wecker

Vice Chair Gary Douvia

Dr. Kenneth Chew

David Jennings

Conrad Mahnken, PhD

George Orr

Chuck Perry

Rolland Schmitten

Bradley Smith

Northwest Field Trial Council

Dedicated to the Field Trial Dog and Conservation of the Game Bird

Serving Washington, Oregon, Idaho and British Columbia

Member Clubs

B.C. All Breed Pointer Club, Cascade Pointer Club, East Seattle Pointer Club, Greater Seattle Bird Dog Club, German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Idaho, German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Oregon, German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Washington, German Wirehaired Pointer Club of Oregon, , German Wirehaired Pointer Club of Central Oregon, Idaho Brittany, Inland Empire Brittany Club, Inland Empire German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Irish Setter Club of Seattle, Irish Setter Club of Canada, Multnomah Irish Setter Club, Northwest Pointing Dog Association, Oregon Brittany Club, Puget Sound English Setter Club, Puget Sound Gordon Setter Club, Puget Sound Vizsla Club, Seattle-Tacoma German Wirehaired Pointer Club, Tri-Cities German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Trails End Vizsla Club, Vancouver Island Pointing Dog Club, Washington Brittany Club, Western Washington Weimaraner Club, Willamette Weimaraner Club and Whid-Isle Brittany Club.

Norman Groendyke

President

German Shorthaired Club of Washington