

INTERNAL GUIDANCE – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH SHOOTING RANGES

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

Thank you for providing feedback to the Department of Natural Resources (“Department”) proposed guidance titled “Environmental Issues Associated with Shooting Ranges.” One email comment was submitted to the Department during the public comment period. A copy of the comment submitted to the Department is included below.

The one comment received suggested a more proactive approach to shooting ranges and strict guidelines for operation. The commenter commended the Department team for its efforts in developing this guidance. The Department appreciates that comment. No changes were made to the guidance as a result of the comment period. The guidance does include a recommendation for Best Management Practices as a proactive measure. The Department team will continue to work on management of environmental issues at shooting ranges, as well as resolution of existing issues.

If you have any questions, please contact John Robinson at (715) 359-8932 or John.Robinson@Wisconsin.gov.

COMMENT RECEIVED

From: WOW [<mailto:WOW@tm.net>]
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2014 11:15 PM
To: Robinson, John H - DNR
Subject: Environmental Issues at Shooting Ranges

It is my personal opinion that we need to be more “proactive” rather than “reactive” when it comes to shooting ranges. Citizens already have to put up with their noise (which is not regulated) from sun up to sun down let alone the environmental impacts. If you look the majority of these ranges are located over marsh and wetlands and seldom clean up after themselves. Why are we just suggesting they follow environmental measures rather than putting some bite into the document. It is a little too late once water ways or wells are contaminated, let alone the birds dying from lead poisoning. As a wildlife rehabilitator lead poisoning is a growing concern as it seems to be increasing rather than decreasing. If you don't believe me ask Marge Gibson from the Raptor Education Group in Antigo. We too have seen an increase.

There should be strict guidelines they NEED to follow before allowing a business to start up such an operation. Shooting ranges operating over waterways, wetlands, etc. should have to clean up their act in a certain amount of time in order to continue their operation. At one of the local shooting ranges located near me the majority of the people using it are not hunters looking to improve their accuracy, which I would love to see, but rather a sport for people who don't even hunt. Trust me, I know a number of the people who attend one particular one and they themselves have told me this.

I commend you for your teams efforts in tackling this but seriously don't understand why there isn't bite in the document but rather suggestions. I would think this makes it much harder to hold someone accountable for their actions.

Thank you for your time.

Susan Theys

Wildlife Of Wisconsin

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