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COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS



**Public safety is the number one concern for DNR. Adding target shooting to the Recreational Use Immunity Statue will allow opportunity to more responsibly designate target shooting locations.**

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## **SB 6541 & HB 2767**

# Allowing for Designated Target Shooting Locations

## **ISSUE**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages nearly 3 million acres of trust land with more than 160 recreation sites and 1,200 miles of trail. Dispersed target shooting is a popular activity and is allowed on most DNR-managed land where proper safety protocols are met according to WAC 332-52-145.

Dispersed shooting creates the following challenges:

- Some users choose improper locations and, as a result, shooting may be conducted in an unsafe manner.
- Debris and trash is often left behind, creating littered landscapes.
- Damage occurs to trees, rock and other natural resources.

Under current statute, landowners do not have recreational immunity for target shooting, meaning DNR may be held liable for unintended injuries resulting from this activity. DNR is committed to finding more solutions for target shooting and has proposed **Senate Bill 6541** and **House Bill 2767** to more responsibly designate shooting locations.

## **SOLUTION**

### **A Hands-on Approach**

This bill adds target shooting in designated locations to the recreational immunity statute, which would allow DNR to take a more hands-on approach to managing target shooting. As a result, DNR could more responsibly designate and make investments in locations for target shooting.

### **Recreational Use Immunity Statue – RCW 4.24.210**

The Legislature modified tort law with the Recreational Use Immunity Statue which provides protection from liability for landowners allowing public use of their lands for free. It does not protect from certain dangerous conditions or anyone who is intentionally injured by a landowner.

### **Add Target Shooting Activities**

The proposed legislation adds target shooting to the list of activities in the Recreational Immunity Statue for which landowners shall not be liable for unintentional injuries.

### **Exemption of Fees**

This legislation also adds that amounts received for leased recreational target shooting facilities are not considered fees, allowing leased target shooting facilities to maintain recreational immunity.