

Plantation Rifle Range: Documents Available for Review and Comment



Comments accepted

Feb. 13 – Mar. 17, 2023

For more information & how to comment online

ecology.wa.gov/PRRcomments

To comment by mail

Val Cramer, Site Manager
Department of Ecology
Northwest Region Office
P.O. Box 330316
Shoreline, WA 98133
valerie.cramer@ecy.wa.gov
425-698-5539

Site information

Webpage:
ecology.wa.gov/PRR
Facility Site ID: 21444552
Site Cleanup ID: 15182

We want to hear from you!

We're overseeing the cleanup of contamination at Plantation Rifle Range, located at 5102 Samish Way, Bellingham, Washington. We invite you to review and comment on the following documents:

- **Draft Agreed Order (AO):** The draft AO requires Whatcom County to find site contamination and clean it up.
- **Interim Action:** To expedite the cleanup process and take advantage of available funding, the county is assessing the site contamination as an interim action.
- **Draft Public Participation Plan (PPP):** The draft PPP encourages community involvement in cleanup decisions.

Visit ecology.wa.gov/PRR to view these documents.

Need help?

Contact Janelle Anderson, Community Outreach Specialist, at 425-301-6454 or janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov.

Public meeting

At this time, there are no public meetings scheduled for this comment period. To request a public meeting, please call 425-301-6454 or email janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov.

Land use

Whatcom County Parks & Recreation operates the Plantation Rifle Range facility (site). The site opened in 1971. It is located on property owned by Bertch Timberlands, LLC. Whatcom County Parks & Recreation leases the property from Bertch Timberlands, LLC.

Site background

Plantation Rifle Range is one of two public shooting ranges in Washington. It consists of an outdoor, high-power rifle range, indoor and outdoor small-bore rifle and pistol ranges, a trap field, and a classroom. The high-power rifle range has target lines at 50, 100, 200, and 300-yards. Earthen backstops (to stop bullets) exist behind the 50- and 300-yard target lines. Ruby Creek flows along the eastern boundary of the Site’s high-power rifle range. Where the creek meets the 300-yard back stop, it enters a pipe running underneath the backstop. The creek re-emerges from the pipe, to the southeast of the 300-yard targets.

In addition to Ruby Creek, wetlands are located within and adjacent to the east side of the high-power rifle range. Ruby Creek is a major tributary to Finney Creek, which flows into Lake Samish. Lake Samish is a drinking water supply to area residents around the lake.

In 2020, the Department of Ecology inspected the range and collected surface water samples. The samples indicated the presence of lead above Clean Water Act standards for aquatic life in freshwater systems. Starting in 2020, Whatcom County began conducting monthly surface water sampling at the site. In 2021, the Department of Ecology returned and took soil samples from the range floor. These samples confirmed the presence of lead.

While the amount of lead is above Clean Water Act standards for aquatic life, the tests have not shown the levels to be dangerous to humans. Lead levels from the tests are below the standard for drinking water.

The work to find and remove the lead wastes should be finished sometime in 2023. This will be the first time that lead wastes have been removed since the range opened in 1971.

Contamination

Lead is a known contaminant at Plantation Rifle Range. It has been detected in the soil, sediment, and surface water at the site. Lead is a toxic metal that impairs brain function. Exposure to lead causes noticeable developmental delays in children. For more information about lead, see [Health Effects of Lead Exposure](#),¹ a webpage by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The cleanup process

We will follow Washington’s cleanup process to clean up the site (see Figure 1). This site is in the “Initial Investigation” phase. The first step is to conduct extensive sampling. The sampling will help us learn more details about the contamination on the site.

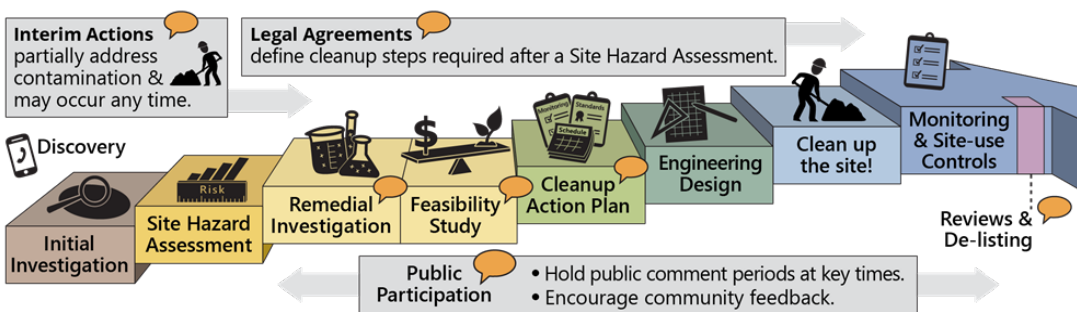


Figure 1: Washington’s cleanup process. [Read a plain text version.](#)²

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/health-effects.htm>

² <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/parts/1909166part2.pdf>

Document review locations

In-person document review is available. Our office is open to the public. However, we encourage you to make an appointment.

Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Region Office
15700 Dayton Ave N.
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716
Reception (24-hour) 206-594-0000

Bellingham Public Library
Central Branch
210 Central Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-778-7323

To schedule an appointment with Ecology, please contact:

Michael Hart

michael.hart@ecy.wa.gov

Public Disclosure Coordinator

You can also review documents on our website: ecology.wa.gov/PRR.

Questions about accessing information?

Contact Janelle Anderson:

425-301-6454

janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov

To submit your comments, questions, or concerns about any of these documents online, see “How to comment” at ecology.wa.gov/PRRcomments.

What happens next?

The public comment period is open from February 13 to March 17, 2023. After the comment period ends, we’ll review and consider all comments received. The documents may change based on your comments. After we consider all comments, the documents will become final.

When there are new documents about the site, we’ll notify you about additional public comment periods.

¿Qué pasa a continuación?

El periodo de comentario público está abierto desde el 13 de febrero al 17 de marzo, 2023. Para someter sus comentarios, preguntas o inquietudes sobre estos documentos, visite ecology.wa.gov/PRRcomments.

Después que el periodo de comentario publico termine, revisaremos y consideraremos todos los comentarios recibidos. Los documentos pueden cambiar basado en sus comentarios. Después de considerar todos los comentarios, el documento será finalizado.

Cuando se desarrollen nuevos documentos sobre el sitio, le notificaremos sobre períodos de comentarios públicos adicionales.

Translations available

Español (Spanish)

El Departamento de Ecología está anunciando el período de comentarios públicos relacionado a la limpieza ambiental del sitio Plantation Rifle Range. Para solicitar una copia de este documento en español o más información sobre este sitio, por favor comuníquese con Janelle Anderson al janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov o 425-301-6454.

Deutsch (German)

Das Umweltministerium lädt die Öffentlichkeit ein, zur Renaturierung des Schießstands Plantation in Bellingham (Washington) Stellung zu nehmen. Für ein deutschsprachiges Exemplar dieses Dokuments oder zusätzliche Informationen senden Sie bitte eine E-Mail an janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov oder wählen Sie die 425-301-6454.

Русский (Russian)

Департамент экологии принимает комментарии общественности относительно действий по улучшению окружающей среды в Plantation Rifle Range в г. Bellingham, штат Вашингтон. Чтобы получить русскоязычную копию данного документа или дополнительную информацию, обращайтесь по адресу электронной почты janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov или по телефону 425-301-6454.

中文 (Chinese)

華盛頓州生態管理署宣布與 Plantation Rifle Range 的環境清理工作有關的公眾意見徵詢期。如要本文檔的中文版，或了解更多關於本網站的中文版信息，請聯繫 Sunny Becker 撥打 425-457-3842 或發送電子郵件至 sunny.becker@ecy.wa.gov。

日本語 (Japanese)

エコロジー局では、ワシントン州ベリンハムの Plantation Rifle Range (プランテーションライフル射撃場) の環境浄化について、パブリックコメントの期間を設けています。この文書の日本語版を請求する場合、または詳細については、janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov にメールを送信するか、425-301-6454 に電話をおかけください。

แบบไทย (Thai)

Department of Ecology กำลังเปิดให้ประชาชนทั่วไปแสดงความคิดเห็นเกี่ยวกับการทำความสะอาด Plantation Rifle Range เพื่อรักษาสิ่งแวดล้อม ณ เมือง Bellingham รัฐ Washington โปรดส่งอีเมลไปที่ janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov หรือโทรติดต่อหมายเลข 425-301-6454 เพื่อขอเอกสารฉบับนั้นฉบับภาษาไทยหรือติดต่อสอบถามข้อมูลเพิ่มเติม.

Tagalog (Tagalog)

Ang Department of Ecology ay tatanggap ng komento ng publiko tungkol sa paglilinis na kapaligiran ng Plantation Rifle Range sa Bellingham, Washington. Para humiling ng kopya ng dokumentong ito sa Tagalog o para sa higit pang impormasyon, pakisuyong mag-email sa janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov o tumawag sa 425-301-6454.

(Arabic) اللغة العربية

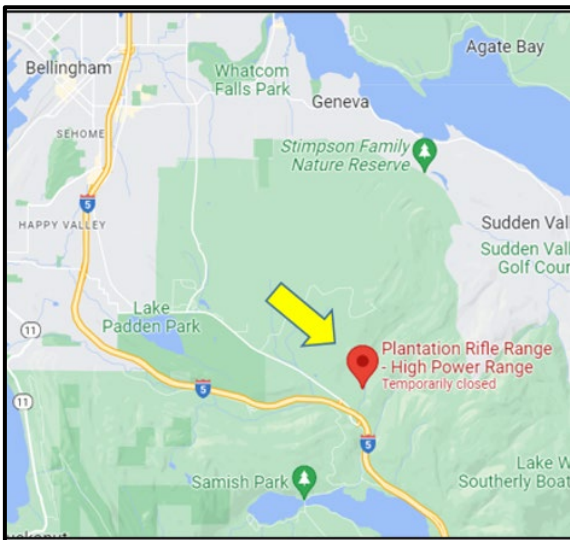
تحتفظ وزارة البيئة بفترة تعقيب عام بشأن التنظيف البيئي لميدان الرماية (Plantation Rifle Range) في بيلينغام، واشنطن. لطلب نسخة من المستند باللغة العربية أو لمزيد من المعلومات، يرجى التواصل عبر البريد الإلكتروني: janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov أو الاتصال على الرقم: 425-301-6454.



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Northwest Region Office
P.O. Box 330316
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716
Tel: 206-594-0000

Join the Discussion!



*Plantation Rifle Range is located at
5102 Samish Way, Bellingham, Washington.*

Plantation Rifle Range Draft Documents

Ecology seeks public comment on a draft agreed order, interim action, and draft public participation plan for Plantation Rifle Range in Bellingham, Washington.

Public Comment Period

February 13 – March 17, 2023

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Translations Inside

ภาษาไทยด้านใน

Español incluida

Внутри текст на русском языке

Deutsch innen

日本語による内部情報

Tagalog sa loob

以内是中文的有关信息

اللغة العربية في الداخل

ADA Accessibility: To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6700, email hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.