



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON 98901-9399

1 April 2004

REPLY TO

ATTENTION OF:

AFZH-YT-CDR

SUBJECT: Yakima Training Center Outdoor Recreation Policy Statement

POLICY STATEMENT # 04-01

1. PURPOSE: This Policy Statement sets forth the laws and restrictions for hunting and outdoor recreation activities on the Yakima Training Center (YTC). This Policy Statement supersedes Policy Statement, AFZH-YT-CDR #03-01, 1 May 2003, Yakima Training Center Hunting Policy Statement.
2. SCOPE: This Policy Statement applies to all individuals participating in hunting and outdoor recreation activities on YTC. All provisions are subject to change by YTC authorities. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and YTC Military Police carry out enforcement.
3. GENERAL: YTC is open to the public for a variety of recreational activities including hunting, bird watching, mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, and use of the Kiddy Fishing Pond.
 - a. Public access for recreational purposes is administered through the YTC Operations Center, Building T-301. All recreational users except John Wayne Trail users must register their vehicles daily at the Visitor Center Pass Facility (Building 106) and sign in and out in person daily at the Operations Center.
 - b. All recreational users are required to possess a YTC Recreation Orientation Card. This card is available at YTC after the 2004/2005 YTC Recreational User Orientation Video has been viewed at the Operations Center. The card is required and must be carried at all times on your person while you are on the installation. YTC Recreation Cards issued prior to 1 April 2004 are no longer valid.
 - c. All recreational users are required to sign in at the Operations Center prior to entering into Training Areas. Recreational users will be issued a numbered vehicle placard that must be displayed on the vehicle dash at all times. After checking in, recreational users may access the installation only through designated gates (Enclosure 1).
 - d. Recreational users are not allowed on YTC earlier than two (2) hours before sunrise and shall be off YTC no later than two (2) hours after sunset.
 - e. Organized activities, tours, and group events must be coordinated and approved in advance by contacting the YTC Environment and Natural Resources Division at (509) 577-3402.
 - f. YTC is divided into multiple Training Areas (TA's). A Recreation Map depicting these TA's and other recreational points of interest is available at the Operations Center. Recreational users may register to use up to three (3) TA's. These TA's do not have to be contiguous. To gain access to an assigned TA, travel through other TA's may be permitted, however stopping or hunting in these areas is not allowed. If Training Areas or roads through Training Areas are closed due to military training activity an alternate route must be used. Use of closed roads is not permitted. Check with Operations Center personnel at time of check in to verify access routes and road closures.
 - g. The entire installation or designated portions thereof may be closed to the public as directed by the Post Commander. TA's open to the public are

determined on a daily basis. Recreationists can refer to the YTC Outdoor Recreation Home Page at www.lewis.army.mil/yakima for a list of TAs closed for recreation. This list is subject to change and does not alleviate the requirement to check in.

- h. All motor vehicles entering and leaving the installation are subject to inspection without the requirement of a search warrant. Seat belts must be worn at all times by all occupants in the vehicle. Driver's license, proof of insurance, and vehicle registration are required for all vehicle operators while on YTC.

4. RESTRICTIONS:

- a. The following areas are closed to recreational activities:

- (1) Impact Areas, Dud Areas, the Multipurpose Training Area (MPTR) and the Multipurpose Range Complex (MPRC). These areas are fenced, marked with signs, and are extremely dangerous.
- (2) TA's designated as closed by the Operations Center.
- (3) The Hoffman Range Complex, which encompasses Ranges 1, 2, 3, 73, and the Yakima Research Station (Enclosure 2).
- (4) The Shoot House and Urban Assault Course located in Training Area 11, south of Cold Creek Road.
- (5) TA's 9, 11, 13, 14, and 15 are closed to all types of recreational activity between about 1 March and 15 June to protect nesting sage grouse from disturbance.

- b. For safety reasons the following areas are off limits to the general public.

- (1) The Multipurpose Range Complex (MPRC) Surface Danger Zone (Enclosure 1).
- (2) The Shotgun/Archery Only Area adjacent to the Cantonment Area (Enclosure 2).

Access to these areas for recreational purposes is authorized for military personnel stationed at YTC and authorized civilian personnel working at YTC to include DOD civilians and Government contract personnel that work at YTC. Personnel authorized to access these areas may be accompanied by no more than three guests. Authorized personnel are responsible for the actions of their guests and must remain in direct contact with their guests at all times. Failure to do so may result in the loss of hunting privilege for authorized personnel and their guests.

- c. The following restrictions apply to all recreational users at YTC:

- (1) The John Wayne Trail is off limits to motorized vehicles. Carrying a loaded firearm or shooting from or across the John Wayne Trail is not permitted.
- (2) Siber stake areas are off limits to all vehicles. Colored markers mounted on fence posts mark these areas. The white, yellow, and red stakes are used to delineate sensitive resource areas and hazardous areas. Foot travel and hunting in these areas is permitted.
- (3) Motorcycles, ATVs, and snowmobiles are not allowed in TA's for recreational purposes. These vehicles may not be transported by trailer or in another vehicle anywhere on the installation.
- (4) Off-road driving for recreation purposes is not permitted.

- (5) Overnight camping and fires are prohibited.
- (6) Accessing adjacent private property from YTC while signed in as a recreational user of YTC is not authorized even with permission from the affected landowner. Accessing YTC from adjacent private property is not permitted.
- (7) Concealed weapons permits are not valid on military installations. Concealed weapons may not be carried on YTC. All weapons legal for hunting in the state of Washington are legal for hunting on YTC.
- (8) Possession of firearms or archery equipment is allowed only during open hunting seasons and is unlawful at all other times except as authorized by the Post Commander.
- (9) It is unlawful to handle, tamper with, or remove any item of ammunition or explosives found on YTC. Discovery of ammunition or explosives must be reported to the Operations Center.
- (10) Taking pictures of facilities, buildings, military equipment or training activities is prohibited.
- (11) Under no circumstances shall any archaeological or Native American cultural site be disturbed in any way. Disturbance of such sites is punishable under Federal Statute.
- (12) Trapping is not permitted.
- (13) Individuals found in closed areas will be escorted off the installation and are subject to prosecution for trespass.
- (14) It is unlawful to litter.
- (15) It is unlawful to damage or tamper with government-owned or leased property, equipment, and buildings. Buildings, structures, and military training devices outside the Cantonment Area are off limits.
- (16) It is unlawful to remove soil, gravel, rock, vegetation, or artifacts.
- (17) Capturing, attempting to capture, or removing any live wildlife species from YTC is not permitted.
- (18) The railroad right-of-way along the Columbia River is private property. Access or trespass across this property from YTC is not authorized.
- (19) No alcoholic beverages are allowed in YTC TA's. Possession of any type of alcoholic beverage is prohibited while in possession of a firearm.
- (20) Horseback riders and mountain bikers must remain on existing roads and trails.

5. PRECAUTIONS:

- a. Troops may be encountered while down range. Recreational users must stay 400 meters from soldiers, military vehicles, and equipment at all times.
- b. Range road conditions on YTC require extreme caution when driving. Although two-wheel drive vehicles are permitted on YTC, a 4-wheel drive vehicle equipped with chains, a shovel, jack, and a spare tire is recommended. The government has no liability for vehicles damaged on YTC during recreational activities. Drivers are responsible for retrieval of stranded or disabled vehicles.
- c. Reduce speed when passing dismounted troops and/or parked tactical vehicles. During hours of darkness, care must be taken when passing military vehicles as they may be maneuvering under blackout conditions. Oncoming headlights may temporarily blind the drivers of these vehicles.

6. HUNTING INFORMATION:

- a. All firearms brought onto the Yakima Training Center must be registered with the Military Police. Registration may be done in person at Building T-301 or through the Yakima Training Center's Outdoor Recreation web page at www.lewis.army.mil/yakima.
- b. All regulations set forth in the WDFW Hunting Seasons and Rules are applicable to YTC except as amended below. Violations of WDFW Hunting Seasons and Rules or provisions set forth in this Policy Statement may result in the loss of hunting privileges on YTC and penalties that may include criminal prosecution, being barred from YTC, and/or disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for persons subject to that code.
- c. The Cantonment Area is off limits to hunting. Hunting is not permitted within 200 yards of any building or facility on the installation.
- d. A shotgun only area is located between the Cantonment Area and Range Control Forward (Enclosure 2). This area is off limits to the public. Access to this area is limited to authorized personnel as described at paragraph 4(b) of this Policy Statement. Hunting in the Shotgun Only Area is limited to archery and shotguns with shells using number 4 shot or smaller (slugs or shot shell larger than number 4 are not permitted). Shotguns may be used in other areas of the installation open to rifles.
- d. Anyone engaged in hunting on YTC must have in their possession at all times a YTC Recreation Orientation Card, valid Washington State hunting license and all applicable stamps, permits and/or tags. Hunters must cooperate fully with Military Police, Federal Wildlife Agents, Washington State Game Protection Agents, and YTC Wildlife Biologists.
- e. Before access to YTC is granted, each hunter must have in their possession a blaze orange garment if required by WDFW 2004-2005 Hunting Seasons and Rules. Upon request, hunters must produce evidence that they have a blaze orange garment. Anyone not wearing an appropriate blaze orange garment will be cited by the Military Police or State game agents and escorted off the reservation.
- f. Training Areas 1-4 are open to all types of falconry. Falconry in all other areas must comply with the flying from the fist restriction. Hunters are reminded that jackrabbit hunting season is closed throughout the state.
- g. Hunters must receive permission from the Operations Center before tracking wounded game later than two hours after sunset. Hunters may seek permission to track wounded game after sunset by calling or stopping at the Operations Center at 577-3236/3280.
- h. To gain access to assigned TA's, travel through other TA's may be permitted, however stopping or hunting while in these areas is not allowed. If TA's or roads within TA's are closed due to training activity then an alternate route must be used. Coordinate with Operations Center personnel at time of check-in to verify access.

- i. No permanent structures (blinds) may be built. Temporary blinds may be constructed for hunting, but must be removed at the end of day. No live or dead vegetation may be cut for use in construction of a blind.
- j. Any game animals (including coyotes) taken on YTC must be retrieved and reported to the Operations Center prior to departing YTC. A box is provided at the Operations Center to submit game check cards. Hunters are expected to make every reasonable effort to retrieve wounded game unless the animal travels into an area that is off limits or onto private property. Tracking a wounded animal into any impact or dud areas is strictly prohibited under all circumstances. Hunters must get permission from the Operations Center to enter other closed areas. Permission from private landowners must be obtained to retrieve game from private property.
- k. Training of hunting dogs of any kind is not allowed on YTC from 1 February through 31 August. Dogs may not accompany deer or elk hunters. Individuals are responsible for the actions of their dogs. Dogs must be on a leash or under the owner's direct control.
- l. Scouting for game prior to hunting season is encouraged and permitted on the installation. All access procedures must be followed.
- m. Hunters may use horses while hunting or scouting on YTC. For the safety of the horse and rider, riding is restricted to existing roads and trails except when retrieving game.

8. KIDDY FISHING POND:

- a. The Kiddy Fishing Pond, located in the Cantonment Area, is available for children 2 to 14 years of age. The pond is stocked twice annually and generally open from May through October.
- b. Users of the Kiddy Fishing Pond will be issued a day pass at the Visitor Center Pass Facility that must be displayed in the vehicle's windshield. Kiddy Pond users do not need to view the Outdoor Recreation Video or check in at the Operations Center.
- c. Catch is limited to three (3) fish per day per child. Any fish caught must be kept.
- d. Swimming in the pond is prohibited.
- e. Cleaning fish in the pond is prohibited.

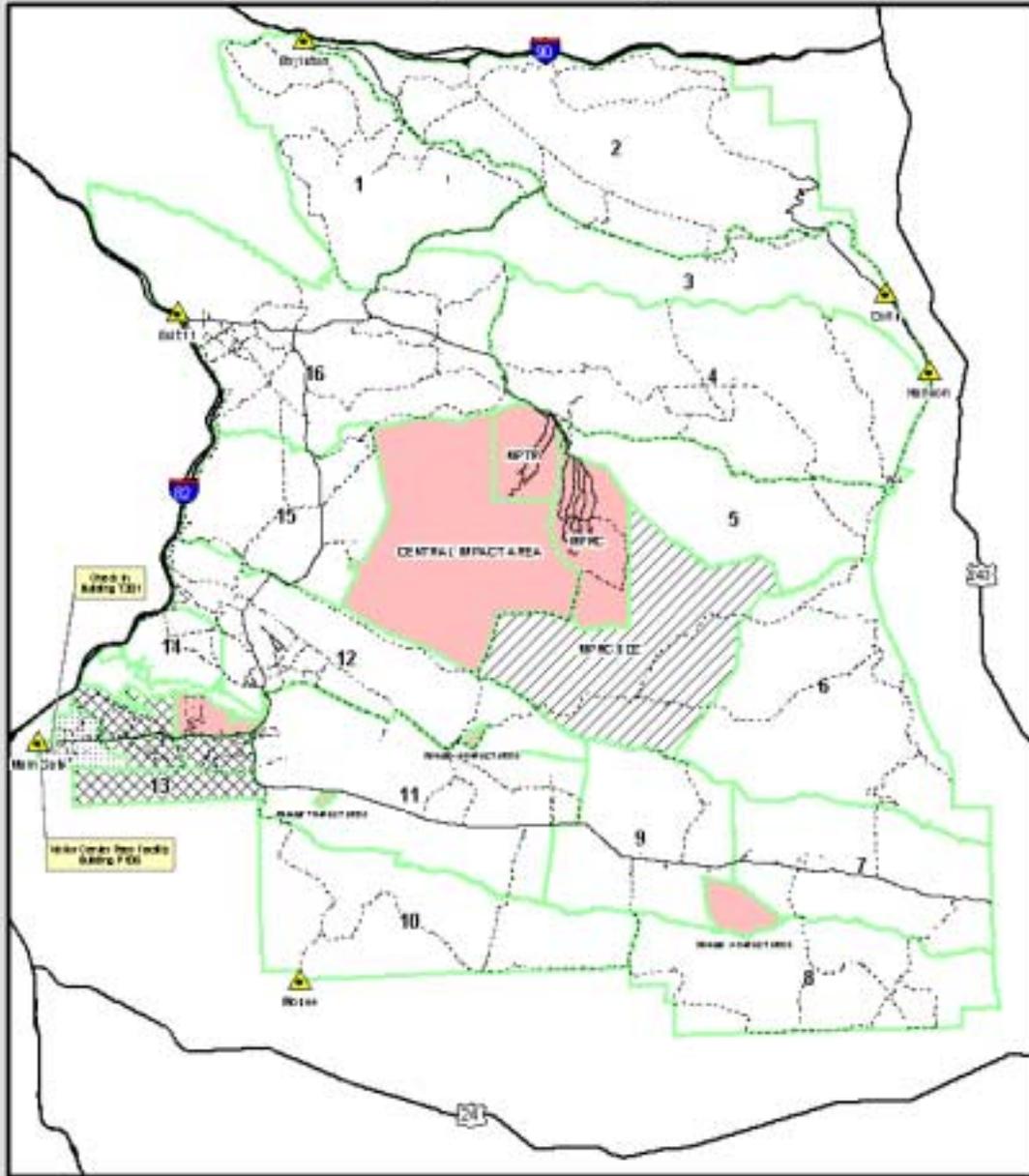
9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- a. Policies and procedures regarding the use of the John Wayne Trail are found in the John Wayne Trail Policy Statement, AFZH-YT-CD #03-02, 13 March 2003.
- b. Additional information concerning recreational activities on YTC can be obtained by visiting the YTC Outdoor Recreation web site at www.lewis.army.mil/yakima or by calling the Environment and Natural Resources Division at (509) 577-3402.


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COMMANDING

2 Enclosures

U.S. Army - Yakima Training Center
 Authorized Entry Points and Hunting Restrictions



- Authorized Access Point
- Off Limits
- Off Limits to Non-Authorized Personnel
- Off Limits to Non-Authorized Personnel / Shotgun Only
- No Hunting



Enclosure 1

