



## Shooting Zones in Thurston County and the Latest Proposed Zone.

Since 1956, Thurston County has enacted a total of 43 No or Controlled Shooting Zone ordinances. Of that total, 38 are still in effect as five have either been overwritten by subsequent ordinances or are in areas that were later annexed by Lacey, Olympia or Tumwater. In reviewing the locations of these zones, it appears they have progressed throughout the county as population density has intensified, especially around shoreline areas.

Responding to requests from a number of county residents, Commissioners held a public meeting in July 2009 at the Griffin Fire House to hear opinions regarding the impacts of shooting shotguns on or near select areas of marine shorelines in the County. The meeting was attended by nearly 80 individuals representing both those opposed to shooting and those supporting. The initial meeting was followed up with another public meeting held on June 17, 2010. Commissioners then held a round-table discussion with interested parties on August 10, 2010 and another public meeting on March 1, 2011.

One result of these meetings was creation of a citizen working group supported by county staff. This group was tasked with further study and development of a draft Controlled Shooting Zone ordinance for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners. That group met twice, first on April 11, 2011 and then again on July 13, 2011. In addition, the group did a significant amount of communication by email. The outcome is a draft ordinance that is ready for review by the Board of County Commissioners.

**Commissioners will consider this draft at a briefing on April 5th at 2:00 PM, in Building 1, Room 280 of the Thurston County Courthouse. This work session will be an opportunity for the Commissioners to review the work, ask questions of staff, and discuss the matter amongst themselves. No testimony from the public will be taken although the public is welcome to attend.**

Following the work session, Commissioners may direct staff to move forward in the process of consideration. This option would require that the Board of County Commissioners hold a public hearing on the matter. Once that hearing has been conducted, the Board could send the matter back to the citizen group and staff for more work; direct staff to bring the matter forward for a vote at a regular Commissioner's meeting; or determine that no further action is warranted.

**Staff Contact- Robert Smith, (360)-754-4023**