



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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Decision Notice for Broadwater Rod & Gun Club Draft Environmental Assessment

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks have released a Decision Notice for an Environmental Assessment (EA) to grant funds to the Broadwater Rod and Gun Club for a Shooting Range Development Grant project. The Indian Creek Shooting range is located at: T.7N., R.1E., Sec. 21: E1/2 & sec. 28: N1/2 NE1/4; in Broadwater County.

This project will provide \$38,550 in partial funding towards the construction of the Black Ram Archery range and trail at the Indian Creek Shooting Range.

A Draft EA was circulated for public comment between December 24, 2009 and January 28, 2010. During this time period, notices announcing the comment period and the draft EA were placed on FWP's website along with an FWP news release announcing the comment period. Legal ads were placed in the Townsend Star and Helena Independent Record newspapers.

FWP received three comments:

Comment: State Historic Preservation Office SHPO: *"Based on the previous inventory of the area by the BLM we feel that there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted. We, therefore, feel that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. However, because this property is owned by the BLM we would ask that you contact the BLM Butte area field office cultural resource coordinator for any concerns that they may have with this project."*

FWP Response: A copy of the EA was sent to the cultural resource coordinator at the Butte area field office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). According to the BLM, the land was transferred to Broadwater County via a patent for the purpose of developing a shooting range and is no longer under their administration as long as it is used for this purpose. BLM did not express any concern.

Comment: *"If you give'em the \$\$, they better not require NRA membership (or any other org) to join/use... .like Logan shooting range!!!!"*

FWP Response: Membership in the Broadwater Rod & Gun Club is required to use the Indian Creek Shooting Range, which is located on property leased from Broadwater County for the purpose of a shooting range. Broadwater Rod & Gun does not limit the number of members and allows persons who are eligible to obtain a Montana hunting license an opportunity to be a member of the club. The annual dues are \$40 for families and \$30 for individuals. Members are allowed to bring guests to shoot at the range at no charge, and the range is open to the public during numerous events and competitions and at the public sight in day in the fall. Montana Code (87-1-277) allows FWP to grant private shooting ranges funds based on the following: *(4) To be eligible for grant assistance, a private shooting club or a private organization: (a) (i) shall accept in its membership any person who holds or is eligible to hold a Montana hunting license and who pays club or organization membership fees; (ii) may not limit the number of members; (iii) may charge a membership fee not greater than the per-member share of the club's or organization's reasonable cost of provision of services, including establishment, improvement, and maintenance of shooting facilities and other membership services; and (iv) shall offer members occasional guest privileges at no cost to the member or invited guest and shall make a reasonable effort to hold a public sight-in day each September, when the general public may use the shooting range for a day-use fee or at no cost;*

Comment: *"Are the use estimates # of different individual shooters per year or # of shooter days (visits) per year?"*

FWP Response: This is a clarification. The estimate given in the EA refers to shooting days. Last year, membership in the Broadwater Rod & Gun Club was 403.

Decision

Based on public comment and internal review, it is my decision to proceed with preferred alternative A, to construct two 3D archery ranges and install vault toilets to the existing rifle and pistol range. FWP will grant the Broadwater Rod & Gun Club \$38,555 in partial funding for this proposed project, pending Broadwater Rod & Gun Club's completion of other administrative procedures under the Shooting Range Development Program.

Thomas Baumeister
Education & Human Dimension Section Supervisor