A History of the World of Shooting Ranges

Part 1

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WHY BUILD A SHOOTING RANGE?

- 21,000,000 annual participants
  - 25% are women
- Top 5 fastest growing sports
- Safety, Safety, Safety
- Economic Benefits
  - Community
  - Park System
Technical Issues for Range Development

- Safety
- Sound
- Environment
Ranges are site-specific

One size won’t fit all
SAFETY

A combination of:

- Range use
- Site conditions
- Design
- Operating procedures
Over-reliance on design will result in an “atomic fly-swatter”
RANGE USE

- Type of firearm(s) and ammunition
- Type and location of target(s)
- Activities
- Type of user
Risk Levels

Military and law enforcement training represents highest risks

Recreational target shooting—lowest
SITE CONDITIONS

Any site is appropriate for a shooting range

Some sites are cheaper than others
Site evaluation:

Safety zone
Aspect
Growth potential
Utility access
Topography
Existence of water/wetlands
Proximity to raw materials
Neighbors

NIMBY

BANANA

Concerns

Safety

Noise

Environmental issues

Traffic
Neighbors

Reach Out—One on One

Educate

Encourage Public Input

Avoid Public Hearings

Use Poster Boards
Reduce the size of the safety zone to match the site

Make lead reclamation easier

Customer comfort/satisfaction
Possible bullet containment structures

Backstops

Earthen

Steel

Granulated rubber

SACON
Possible bullet containment structures

Eyebrows

Overhead Baffles

Ground baffles
Lead Distribution at Outdoor Ranges – Rifle and Handgun

Reprinted from *Lead Management at Small Arms Ranges*, ITRC, 2005
OPERATING PROCEDURES

Reflect all of the above factors

Must be enforced
The most difficult aspect to manage

“Sound” vs. “Noise”

Know the state, county or local ordinances

Keep the debate focused on objective evaluations
Sound abatement techniques

Block the exposure pathway

- Topography
- Vegetation
- Walls
- Tubes
POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Lead

PAHs

Other Metals
Lead Management: the basics

Metallic Lead is Inert

Keep Metallic Lead in its Metallic Form

Avoid Shooting Into Water or Wetlands

Keep Lead from Migrating Off the Range
RESOURCES

National Association of Shooting Ranges
www.rangeinfo.org

US EPA
www.epa.gov/region2/waste/leadshot

Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council
www.itrcweb.org

National Rifle Association                www.nrahq.org
"The World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta is going to be a world-class facility and a powerful economic engine for southwest Illinois. The state's investment is expected to generate almost $50 million each year for the region. We are also thrilled that Illinois will be hosting the Amateur Trap Shooting Association's "Grand American," the oldest and most prestigious shooting competition in the world, which is the ultimate way to open the state-of-the-art complex."

Gov. Rod Blagojevich
EVENTS – 2006/2007

2006 Events
- ATA – U.S. Open
- SASS Cowboy Shoot
- ATA – Grand American
- ATA – Fall Handicap
- Gamaliel Sporting Clay Cup
- Fall/Winter Trap League

Scheduled 2007 Events
- U.S. Open
- SASS Cowboy Shoot
- Briley Bluegoose Skeet Shoot
- ATA – Grand American
- ATA – Fall Handicap
- Spring/Summer League
WORLD SHOOTING COMPLEX FACILITIES

- 120 trap field over 3.5 miles
- 24 skeet overlay fields
- 2 sporting clay courses
- Permanent exhibitor buildings
- Events center
- 1000 RV camping spaces
- Multi-purpose, multi-use recreational facility

- Cost - $50,000,000.00
COMBINATION TRAP FIELD
COMBINATION SKEET FIELD
CAMPGROUND & SUPPORT FACILITIES

- 750 full hookup sites
- 250 electric only sites
- Shower bldg.
EVENTS CENTER, SEPTEMBER 2005
EVENTS CENTER ACTIVITY
EAST SHOOTING LINE – 2006 GRAND
5 VENDOR BUILDINGS, 11 RENTABLE SPACES EACH.
VENDOR BUILDINGS, OCTOBER 2005
VENDOR BUILDINGS – MAIN STREET
VENDOR BUILDINGS – AERIAL VIEW
FUTURE PROJECTS

- Boat ramps – 2007
- Skeet fields – 2007
- 3-d archery range - 2007
- Storage facility – 2008
- Additional restrooms – 2008
- Rifle and pistol range – future