



JEFFERSON COUNTY  
 2014 PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGE  
 SITE EXPLORATION SUBGROUP

**April 29, 2014**

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Jefferson County Open Space Office  
 700 Jefferson County Parkway, Suite 100  
 Golden, Colorado 80401

Working Group Member in Attendance	Organization
Mark Loye, Lead Facilitator	Jeffco Mediation Services
Gene Adamson, Lead	Interested Citizen
Tom Hoby	Jeffco Open Space & Parks
Joy Lucisano	Jeffco Open Space
Steve Snyder	Jeffco Attorney's Office
Nancy York	Jeffco Open Space
Russ Clark	Jeffco Planning & Zoning
Rob Thayer	Jeffco Open Space, GIS Analyst
John Litz	PLAN Jeffco
Janet Shangraw	Jeffco Open Space Advisory Committee
Bill Jewell	City of Lakewood
Ed Sutton	Interested Citizen

## Meeting Notes

**Note: Official (flip chart) meeting notes appear in bold**

*Transcribed notes (from Nancy York) appear in italics*

*Mark Loye, Lead Facilitator, began the meeting by asking Rob Thayer, Jeffco Open Space GIS Analyst, to run through the mapping process used by County staff in the application of the BASIC evaluation criteria agreed upon by the Working Group.*

- **Display of maps related to site criteria set by Working Group**
  - **Process of elimination method**
- **Clarification—Drive times calculated from 3 points, not just one**
- **Question: Should roads & highways be considered “developed” areas for exclusion purposes?**
- **Rocky Flats Questions**
  - **Problems with selection for the site**
    - **Wildlife Refuge & Contaminated Areas are both Federally controlled**
    - **Is the old range facility still there?**
  - **Worthy of further investigation with the Department of Energy (DoE)**
- **Site at Northern Border of County**
  - **Owned by Open Space**
  - **Has Open Space related restrictions**
  - **Part of Coal Creek Canyon Park**
  - **There is a management plan for the park**
- **Ranson-Edwards Homestead Property**
  - **Critical species present—high biodiversity**
  - **Question: What about areas outside?**
  - **Except for area directly to the north, it is owned by Boulder Open Space**
  - **Area to the north is private**
  - **No Prebles Jumping Mouse designation**
  - **Road into the property would be needed**
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Area to the North**
  - **Homes platted but not built**
- **Northern Front Range Shooting Partnerships**
  - **Maps for Boulder, Clear Creek & Larimer Counties**
  - **Similar criteria give very similar exclusion results to analysis of Jeffco.**
  - **In this case, there have been open houses, public comment on proposals**
- **Next largest OK parcel**
  - **NE of Golden Gate Canyon**
  - **Private ownership, 154 acres**
  - **Access from the NE, private road**
  - **Access from South**
  - **Nighthawk Pass Road**
  - **Quality unknown**
  - **Need to find out if this is a public access road**
  - **Guy Hill Road access from the North**
- **2 areas off Wood Rock Road**
  - **Private, within Golden Gate Canyon State Park**
  - **Probably a no-go**
  - **Topographically difficult**

- **13 acre area just South of Ralston Creek**
  - Heavily forested
  - 5 private ownerships
  - One of the owners has about 60% of the property
  - Access from Drew Hill Road through several other private properties
- **Where should we go from here?**
  - Potentially 3 or 4 sites?
  - Look more specifically at “mining” areas
  - Look at:
    - Reclamation plans for active/inactive quarries in Jeffco
    - Site specifics
    - Buffering, etc.
- **Present to larger group**
  - Give generic location markers for the 3 or so sites identified
  - Will look at some other “unique” sites that might not meet every one of the criteria but could still work

*Tom Hoby mentioned the site evaluation basic criteria developed by this subgroup and adopted by the plenary Working Group. This is what was used by Rob Thayer, Jeffco Open Space GIS Analyst in the series of maps he presented to the group.*

*Through a process of elimination of properties across Jeffco, what Rob showed was what land remained as potential for a public shooting range based on the application of evaluation criteria.*

*BASIC evaluation criteria was used as agreed upon by the Working Group.*

*Map 1: Base map of Jefferson County showing major roads.*

*Map 2: The purpose was to identify “developed areas” (commercial and residential); The dataset used is from the National Land Cover Data (NLCD) set produced in 2012 highlighting all developed areas based on remote sensing (think “heat map”); dark red is the most dense (cities and towns) and lighter pink is less developed; high medium and low developed land cover layers were used. Forest, shrubland, grasslands are also shown to contrast development (they appear in white). The file uses a 30 x 30 meter pixel (resolution); high medium and low development isolated and then this was buffered by 1/2 mile (as developed by this working group) for context on what is immediately eliminated.*

*Map 3 shows the above 1/2 mile buffer from residential and commercial applied to all of Jefferson County.*

*Map 4 demonstrates the areas of 20% slope or greater applied. This equates to 11.31 degrees...still relatively flat, but extracted out of a digital elevation model using remote sensing aerial data.*

*Map 5: Driving distance: used by applying Google maps data; staff used three intersections Hwy 6/Hwy93 and I-70/C-470 and I-70/Hwy285 and identified points within 30 minutes of respective intersections per driving conditions and road conditions; staff used best estimate at getting to this criteria; staff believes this is still honoring the spirit of "close to the population" direction from the BCC; it essentially eliminates the Pike National Forest to the south as it's too far to drive.*

*Map 6: NLCD mapping information presented good idea where developed areas are, but not every occupied structure; this is more of a hands-on analysis; slopes and first blush of NLCD was evaluated and then driving distances; staff then looked at areas remaining; using aerial photography, where there was a house, barn or shed, points were created and then buffered it by a 1/2 mile. Thousands of points all over Jeffco; this was a truth testing exercise.*

*Map 7: This map addresses adjacency to state or county maintained roads using the best data set staff has at our disposal; we took all roads and buffered them by 1/2 mile; the longest distance and length of a road we determined to be 1/2 mile as an acceptable level of development; anything outside of 1/2 mile from a county or state road was excluded since the group felt that this would be cost prohibitive to develop for a public shooting range; it would be an expensive endeavor to construct and maintain a long access road.*

*Map 8: bright red showing exclusions based on all basic evaluation criteria applied thus far.*

*Map 9: All green areas are those left after basic criteria was applied.*

*Map 10: Shows all areas that are 6 acres or greater. This is based on Design and Operations Subgroup minimum acreage and agreed upon by the plenary Working Group; scattered green polygons remaining as potential on the map are then further refined to include areas that are a minimum of 6 acres. There are 13 remaining "areas" (not necessarily "parcels" as legally defined, but rather, could be collections of land ownership with a mix of public and private landowners). This allows flexibility in terms of future developability of a possible public shooting range rather than relegating it to a single owner based on legal parcel ownership.*

*Map 11: Demonstrates locations of all FCC communication towers that exist in Jefferson County, per data available; points shown (AM, FM, television, digital, etc.); site by site basis can be reviewed.*

*Map 12: Division of reclamation of mining and safety data points for mines; this data needs much more research. Remediation Plans are available on State of Colorado website; Gene Adamson asked about status of mine locations shown; terminated versus abandoned; etc.; answer is that more research needs to be conducted.*

*Russ Clark with Jeffco Planning & Zoning questioned whether the NLCD data set was the best approach versus using the address points data set and buffering those; Rob Thayer, Jeffco Open Space GIS Analyst said that the address points is a very generalized data set and for larger tracts of land, the points are not placed accurately on structures, but rather in the center of properties. This makes the data set unreliable until tedious truth testing via aerial imagery is conducted, and even then, outbuildings that may or may not need to be buffered (uninhabited) are an issue; another concern with NLDC data is that highways are automatically eliminated and then in our exercise, buffered by ½ mile, so it may be eliminating areas that have potential.*

*Russ went onto to mention that portions of Rocky Flats, some under the ownership of the U.S. Department of Energy and some under the control of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Wildlife Refuge) may have been eliminated erroneously. These areas should remain up for discussion until follow up can be conducted with the appropriate personnel in those organizations, and the group agreed; Gene Adamson mentioned that there used to be an active shooting range on the property but Russ Clark mentioned that it was demolished in recent years and the aerial imagery confirms this; all agreed that there are challenges with considerations for a range on a National Wildlife Refuge as the use has been found to be incompatible in conversations over the years. A 2000 Denver Post article covered the story of law enforcement officials from the region having approached federal government officials for a shooting range on the site to no avail.*

*Green areas were discussed by the group (areas that have not been eliminated based on application of the group's agreed upon basic criteria (not the additional set of criteria for a finer grain look at particular parcels). There are many collections of private properties across the mountainous portions of northern Jefferson County, but some remain questionable due to possible lack of public access, adequate road conditions and length of drive time. No additional criteria were discussed (e.g., visual and noise impacts, etc.) in this broad brush evaluation.*

*Golden Gate Canyon State Park (south side of park) was discussed as a possibility and a partnership could be possible with State Park officials if a suitable site with public access is identified.*

*As part of a follow-up exercise in the search for a public shooting range site, a closer look should be taken at abandoned or active mining/quarry sites in Jefferson County and what potential exists to take advantage of these distressed properties. Reclamation Plans filed with the State of Colorado dictate what ultimate use the land will have and would need to be addressed.*

*In general, the willingness of sellers has not been explored with any collections of private properties, given the very broad stage of discussions as part of this feasibility exercise.*