



JEFFERSON COUNTY  
2014 PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGE  
OPERATIONS + DESIGN SUBGROUP

**April 4, 2014**

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Jefferson County Open Space Office

Vista Room

700 Jefferson County Parkway, Suite 100

Golden, Colorado 80401

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1	Jenna Ambacher, Facilitator		Jeffco Mediation Services
2	Bob Swainson, Lead		Interested Citizen
3	Karey Baker	Administrative Coordinator	Jefferson County Open Space
4	Nancy York	Partnerships Coordinator	Jefferson County Open Space
5	Gene Adamson		Interested Citizen
6	Dave Davenport	Outdoor Recreation Management Coordinator	Jefferson County Open Space
7	Lloyd Ackerman	Academy Firearms Coordinator	Jefferson County Sherriff's Dept.

**“Givens”**

- **Access**
- **Parking**
- **Registration/Sign In**
- **Waiting area**
- **Restroom**
- **Observation Area**
- **Shooting Range Area**
  - **Shelter bay**
  - **Berm with bullet trap (recycling)**
  - **Appropriate lighting**
  - **Booths**
  - **Spotting scopes**
- **Exit**

**Report of Findings**

- **Design Considerations**
- **Operational Considerations, early June**

## Site

- Cherry Creek Family Shooting Center – 24 lanes (12 rifle and 12 pistol)
- Proposed Range – 20-30 lanes

## Standards

- Police Officer Standard & Training (POST) standards
- 4 active shooters to 1 Range Safety Officer (RSO)

## Design

- Controlled entrance and exit
- Registration, screening, waivers
- Training facility
- Climate controlled
- Start with big controls. Easier to relax controls later
- Shelter with shooting bay
  - Wood preferable (ricochet, lower cost of repair)
  - Shouldn't see top of berm
- Berm with bullet trap

## Considerations

- Public space draws
- Beginner to average shooters
- Law Enforcement Only (LEO) facilities
- Structured, paid RSO/instructors
- Safety
  - Muzzle awareness
  - Trigger finger
- Proximity/time to medical facility

## Offering

- Different positions shooting, e.g. standing, kneeling, need of sandbags?
- Different levels of shooting – not this facility
- Holstering, etc.
- Hunter Sight In periods

## Lanes

- Material for booths
- Overhang – place for lighting, safety signs, etc.
- Booth Width
  - 5-6 foot
  - 2 people can shoot at once/booth (if come in same group)
- Would be nice to have
  - Baffle System & Walkways

## Training

- **Basic course must be available**
- **Optional training for beginners – Free?**
- **Mandatory basic safety training every time**
- **Beginners who need extra assistance help by RSO**
- **Safety Certification/NRA (National Rifle Association) Card**
- **Depending on staffing, RSOs can be available to help with specific groups for training**
- **Hunter Safety Classes**
- **Alternative Safety Certifications?**
- **Demos**

## Facility

- **Family Friendly**
- **No holstering (safety reasons)**
- **1 round – wait for second round**
- **RSO Standards**
  - **NRA certification**
  - **POST certification**
- **For Profit?**
  - **Private instructors permitted?**
  - **Private clubs? Often don't allow external instructors**
  - **Events with private instructors can generate profit**
  - **Earn right to instruct, e.g. volunteering so many hours**
  - **Gun rental?**
  - **Training?**
- **Charge for public range use?**
  - **Should aim for self-sustaining range**
  - **User fees**
  - **Recycling**
  - **Group rates**
  - **Family rates**
- **Timing?**
  - **Daily**
  - **Hours could be 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour before sunset?**
  - **1 hour after sunrise to 1 hour after sunset?**
  - **Could set any hours of use**
  - **Night use? Requires lighting of entire facility**
- **Shared Facility?**
  - **Law enforcement**
  - **Other entities**

## KSA= Knowledge, Skills, Abilities

- Tactics is not part of what we want to consider at this range.



### Scope of Facility

*The group discussed game plan for subgroups and plenary working group. We are all working on inter-related topics and need to be sure we're coordinating closely.*

*The size for 10-15 stalls on each side for rifle and pistol, on a heavy use day at Cherry Creek Family Shooting Center was discussed and Lloyd Ackerman said every stall is filled with an hour to hour and a half wait; that site has 24 lanes; 50/50 rifle and pistol. Although here was there on one of the busiest days of the year, the demand is certainly there.*

*The Cherry Creek Family Shooting Center facility scope has a check-in person and two safety range persons working each side all the time; we need to consider appropriate staff and volunteer levels; and with busy weekends, we need to be planning for the worst...be careful about having too many staff for the slower days; all a balancing act.*

*At Cherry Creek, rifle and pistol ranges sit side by side and 200 yards to the west is their trap shooting; a person's name goes on the list and then they trap shoot until their turn comes up for rifle and pistol lanes; balance needs to be struck.*

*20-30 lanes we're proposing seems to make sense; paralleling them seems good; volunteers or staff...something to consider...you don't want people to be idled; If no one is there to use the range, volunteers or staff are there and can enjoy some shooting time themselves.*

### Design Considerations

*The Rooney Valley shooting range is open and there are no stalls...wide open with numbers at end of "lanes"; however, that is for law enforcement only and a more structured/controlled atmosphere such as what's at Cherry Creek is good...so people get the safety message loud and clear.*

*At the Centennial shooting facility, there is bullet proof glass floor to ceiling for each stall; at the Lockheed Martin facility, there is a line of shooters and a long bench or an open line with a*

designated number of people shooting at a target; potential for crossfire or inadvertent sweeping is a concern.

Bob Swainson explained to the group the concept of Knowledge Skills and Ability (KSAs) in evaluating what level of shooting a person is comfortable with; basis of this for firearms is safety; unconsciously incompetent, accidentally sweeping; muzzle awareness and finger safety are the most important things; this speaks to scope of what we want to set up and the physical structures that need to be constructed.

The design of a facility for LEOs is totally different based on expectation and knowledge compared to a public facility; an operational procedure to address safety issues that may arise (alcohol or drug) is essential to this effort.

## Operational Considerations

Bob Swainson says that 4 people to 1 instructor is standard in industry; target group attracted to public range could be beginning to average shooter...sometimes this can require more staff/volunteers. Police Officer Training and Standard Board (on Colorado Attorney General's website: [http://www.coloradoattorneygeneral.gov/departments/criminal\\_justice/post\\_board](http://www.coloradoattorneygeneral.gov/departments/criminal_justice/post_board) has more information).

At the Rooney Valley Law Enforcement shooting range, Lloyd Ackerman, who manages the facility, says he needs to staff for busy times; for holidays and nice weekends; long weekends, it's popular. Range Safety Officer (RSO) need can be demanding; one of the focuses we've talked about with this facility is that we'd focus on beginner/average person.

The Rooney Law Enforcement site has paid staff (45 person staff of range officers); days are assigned to these people as instructors; they have a structure they have to follow for each quarter; on busy days, 5 instructors are there; 25 handgun lanes at Rooney; that's a high end user: Law Enforcement Only (LEO).

Bob would like to see questions of people as they arrive such as, "what gun have you brought and what KSAs do you have?"; "Do you know what you have?"; based on what they have and knowing their gun and the person there keeping an eye knowing the gun in just as important; staples, guns and cuts from gun uses; weapon craft is going to dictate operations and design of facility; after weapon craft is marksmanship; Why do we shoot a firearm?; To shoot an intended target.

Safety

Weapon Craft

Marksmanship

Tactics...this effort is not in that business

Stance is important; shooting table is important; shooting standing or sitting; kneeling versus prone versus standing is important to determine; at Lockheed Martin facility, the banning of drawing from a holster is in effect...they're used as a storage device but not from holster to shoot.

We would need to develop rules and regulations for the range at some point once a site is chosen. We will need to determine what's allowed and what's not; the group feels at least one paid Range Safety Officer (RSO) a necessity; one round per second is standard...cuts down on repetitive sound; noise considerations important to tie to this; a facility that allows automatic gunfire will scare off

families is the sentiment of this group; single action revolver...people get these as a gift and the holster and it's not ok to use a holster at a facility like what is being discussed here.

Lloyd Ackerman mentions the, "general motoring public" as who we are catering to with a public facility of this kind; until this stands on its own as a self generating thing, volunteers may be ok to run the facility; these volunteers would need to be NRA certified instructors, POST certified instructors, etc. and there will need to be a standard set (very important); if a private instructor wants to reserve the range, we need to address this as well.

If we open a facility like this and Bob has a business, can he reserve a lane for an hour to do private instruction for an hour and what is the remuneration back to the county...private citizen?; this needs to be addressed. Traditionally, at private facilities, it's \$60/lane per hour...student pays entry fee (\$15) and whatever the instructor charges for private instruction they keep.

We need to manage expectations; Lockheed Martin facility doesn't allow instructors outside of the private shooting club to use the facility because there is an expectation of usage for members only.

Do we say 10% of the lanes could be used at times for private instructors, or even allow it at all?; for private rentals? No outside instructors?; this can equate to a fitness instructor using a recreation center, or special activity permits, etc.; is this allowed for profit folks?; these are important considerations; it's worth having that conversation since it's a revenue generator; if we scrap all for profit ventures, it could eliminate the option of events to fund site maintenance, etc..

Gene Adamson shared an example like Centennial Shooting Range where the people who run the range are responsible for all that happens that day (all safety issues); in order to earn right to instruct, you need to have x number of volunteer hours as an RSO on the facility?; This is familiarly with site and ownership of its success. When people show up who have never shot, a staffer can hold their hands and work with them on basic safety; this is all centered on safety, gun operation, demonstrating how they work, etc.

Scenarios need to be discussed and handled, such as: someone shows up with gun; someone shows up with no gun but would like to try shooting; someone comes as student with a private instructor, etc.; will there be equipment rental from a box that's checked out with an RSO there when someone opens the box and takes things out with a safety lecture?; every 30 minutes the operation is paused to reset targets?: all guns are made safe and step behind yellow range with RSOs supervising range; if you cross the yellow line, you're chastised.

At Cherry Creek, there are booths with a long yellow line; education is an important aspect of this endeavor; we could have a long term vision (Cherry Creek sells guns), but in the beginning, it's ("bring your own gun"/BYOG at first); could be a phased approach to development; what about basic firearm handling rules...in a small classroom?; Picnic area space?; Some ranges are open (from when you're in the parking lot...signage says leave firearms in vehicle); walking people through facility from step one...this facility MUST be all about safety in absolutely every aspect.

Someone getting out of car with gun, that's a challenged person and they need to be addressed immediately; Safety, safety; safety; should there be training opportunities?; basic firearm training could be a piece of this, which drives operation and design; again, we should cater to the beginning to average shooters...the bulk of people in the County, not the ends of the spectrum interested in specialized offerings; it would be nice to have a room to shuffle through for registration; a structure (all weather...heated/cooled) for classroom part of it: long term vision (nice to haves), wherever the property is and room for growth and long term development.

*Controlled entrance on how the public comes in and what they come in with and then cycle through that spot to get to range itself...for family, etc.; all who enter backside of building have to sign a waiver to show up, even to watch; for exit...gated system?; the facility should be filtered elsewhere; we don't want what Pawnee National Grasslands facility has the "check in and back up pickup truck."; that is not the recommendation from this subgroup, and if safety is not paramount, don't want a part of this effort. Safety is that essential to this.*

*We should start very conservatively...with a highly controlled environment rather than wide open and with shooting being the responsibility of the shooter; it's easier to establish hard rules than it is to start with openness...approaching this with the utmost safety is everyone's goal.*

*From an operations point of view:*

*The "Givens":*

*A controlled access point (ensuring waivers are signed, etc.); ADA access Established walkways for ADA on shooting line...a shade shelter (doubles as muzzle control); should extend down range and baffles could be done if needed...enough to be sure you can't see the berm down lane; berm coupled with baffle is key; Concrete pad.*

*These could be added later:*

*At station should not be able to see top of berm...wood structures better for cutting down on ricochet and easier to repair; If you want to even more carefully control this, baffles could be constructed at top of berm...for additional control; at 25 yards or other, or soft rubber baffle (depends on site); shade, rain cover and errant bullets captured;*

*In terms of partnering, organizations like Outdoor Buddies, a nonprofit that Gene Adamson works with at Lockheed...disabled folks interested in shooting...would be great.*

*Pawnee National Grasslands is 300 yard range; clearing the berm is easy there with lifting a rifle; buffer on back end is not good; rules and regulations should include caliber control; no 50 caliber and above allowed.*

*Demographics and purpose of range are important to know; demographics (who will use this?); hard to measure someone with incredible skill and knowledge from someone who is an absolute novice by appearance alone; rating skills is uncomfortable; initially we should have an educated group of people to run facility and then train people to move into positions (field training program); 3 months of training before going on your own to be RSO; solid educated group that begins this; these are the trainers all the time; want consistent trainers to lead people in how to run range, but these are the people who also get people set up in their booth and answer questions.*

*Looking at things like a bullet trap (prevents lead in the dirt); recyclable aspect of the operation needs to be considered; most people leave casings there; environmental considerations (recycling it and considering it as a money maker too); a trap system that can be very simple based on an auger system; financial self-sustaining scenario should be considered; imperative to have a mid-range baffle that obstructs the view of the top of the berm.*

*Will people be charged?; someone could show up with their own handgun, and trainers on-site could demonstrate safety aspects of shooting and all that goes into becoming comfortable with it.*

*For a public range, \$16.50 per person to shoot is what Cherry Creek Family Shooting Center does; if this facility is to be staffed, the public should be charged. It's self-sustaining.*

*There is a seven-agency consortium at Rooney Valley Law Enforcement range; brass is recycled and the number of users are tracked per day; each agency pays fee based on that...this is what runs the range; roughly \$1200 to \$2000 in peak times, just in ammo recycling is recovery cost for brass; there are one or two people who are paid and charged with Chief RSO responsibilities...overseeing it, fully invested; a manager or two. Even if they're just managing the facility and another group of volunteers is utilized, it's important to have a paid staff presence for continuity sake....even if this is a couple of part timer staffers.*

*This facility would not be open 365 days per year based on weather and wind and other considerations; a potential schedule could be: half hour after sunrise to half hour before sunset every day; or half hour after sunrise to half hour before sunset (Lockheed Martin facility hours); closed at 7pm on Sunday; Once it's dark, sounds are amplified and people are at home and we don't want noise nuisance to be an issue; no nighttime offering for this facility is planned.*

*One idea discussed is a shared use for Law Enforcement...a 200 yard range is appealing; SWAT/scope guys would really be interested in this; could be site specific issue; are we looking at law enforcement involvement?; Are we considering a large academy building for a range?; At the Rooney Valley shooting facility there are 2 academies per year and each academy is two days per week; for each entity (Red Rocks and Jeffco).*

*Nighttime use will need to be considered on a site specific basis...could the building be used for education training?; during the week, 7pm close is a bit of a norm; paying for lighting is another cost...full facility would need to be lit, etc.; appropriate lighting for entire facility would be needed; daytime only right now is ok and later, lighting can be considered; hours of operation are key consideration that will need more discussion.*

*The "Givens":*

*Hours of operation: daytime only*

*Booth/containment area is critical....for safety and sweeping considerations; pay to use (fee structure would need to be considered carefully...family discount?; individual shooter...certain price, if lane is shared, there's a bit of a discount, etc.).*

*Limit on amount of people in a lane is consideration as well.*

*Pawnee National Grasslands (Baker Draw): 18 lanes, 25, 50 and 100 yard...5 acre site with a buffer; does rifle shooting gear up around hunting season?; unclear; rifle bullets are more expensive, in general, than handgun bullets; Instruction of some kind is a GIVEN; graduated stages for gun knowledge and experience; juvenile classes for hunter safety partnered with Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW); needs to be a basic range safety class needs to happen (10 minute); at the discretion of the Range Safety Officer (RSO).*

*Starting with beginner or novice; first steps to advanced is nice to offer; either permanently offered or periodically (for classes); 4 safety rules of firearms that can be taught; rules can differ range to range; all weapons treated as they're always loaded; pointing at something that you're not willing to destroy; always be certain of your target beyond; keep finger off trigger until you're prepared or justified to shoot; would we accommodate a person who has a gun but doesn't know how to use it?; staff to help that person is good; RSO can help that person; Potentially free classes for novice (first steps); comfortable competency; this could be an enticement to help educate novices; Depends on funding: staffing and volunteers...we could offer beginner classes.*

*Could be a card system for people to know that they've been there and have taken their first steps class; Bob suggested a red, yellow, green system....with questioning and a tag that people wear are options; Pistol and rifle married in parallel lanes is key, rest can be separate and oriented different.*

*CPW hunter safety training offering is important to consider (offering classes). End of August to end of October; hunter sight in...a dedicated lane for sighting in at certain time of year for rifle is important and can be a revenue generator; Set spotting scopes on the range so you can see distance without bringing your own scope; target stands and cardboard backers...recovering of brass casings (recycling) and lead and copper from bullets...self-sustaining formula that's environmentally sound; trading of live ammo for recycled brass; future phase to consider could be a gun to "learn on"...here are guns, and here's the class and you can try them before considering buying them.*