

TARGET RANGE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS



Wildlife Restoration funds (manufacturer's excise taxes) generated from the sale of firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment, support the construction, operation, and maintenance of more than 800 public target ranges in the United States. This represents a significant investment in safe, structured environments where the public may participate in all kinds of target shooting.

Recent Status

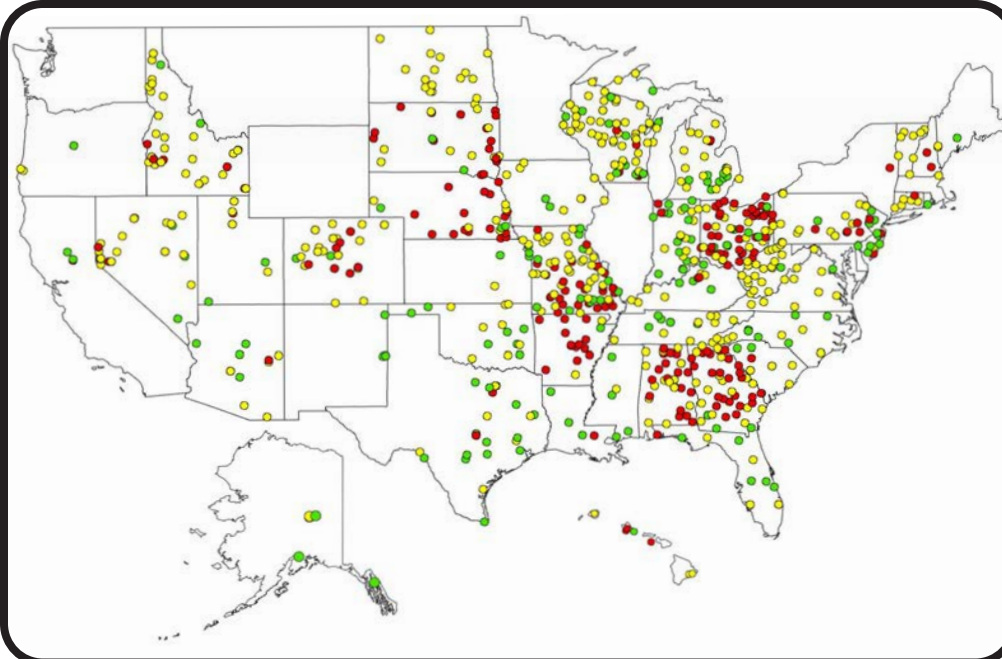
In the last six months, there are **7** new ranges being built as well as **54** ranges being upgraded or expanded.



THESE PROJECTS ARE
SUPPORTED by the Wildlife &
Sport Fish Restoration Program



Partnering to fund conservation
& connect people with nature.



Total Ranges

- Firearms
- Archery
- Combined

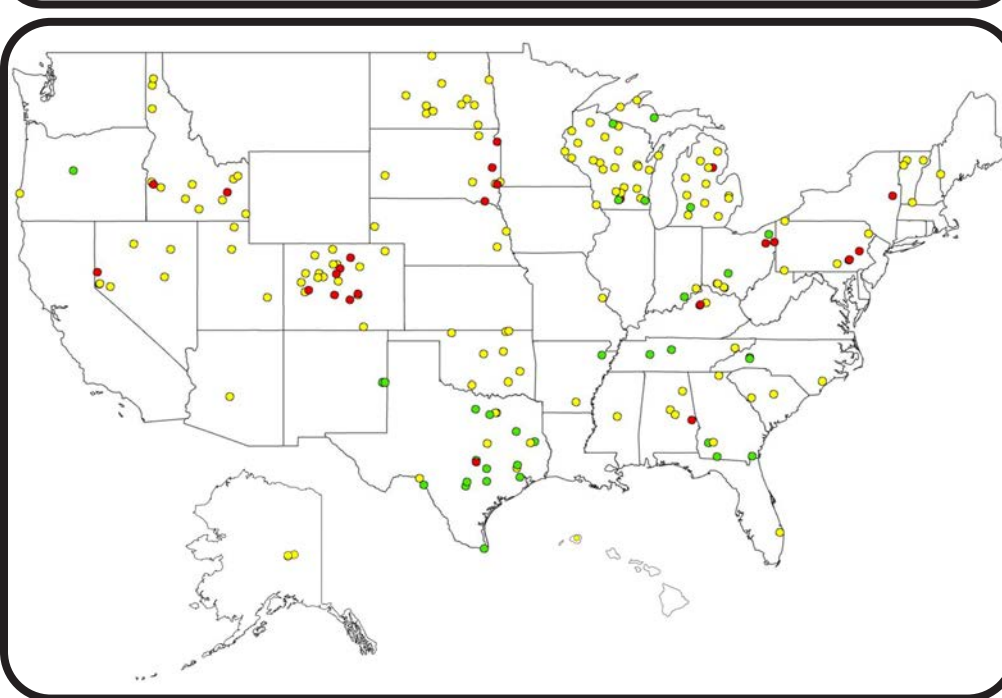
Nationwide

453 FIREARMS RANGES

215 ARCHERY RANGES

188 COMBINED RANGES

856 TOTAL RANGES



New grants submitted since the 2019
'Tar-Mark' Act

*through August 2022

168 FIREARMS RANGES

32 ARCHERY RANGES

33 COMBINED RANGES

233 TOTAL RANGES

\$91M IN
GRANTS SUBMITTED

Current WSFR Supported Ranges in the United States

25+ Ranges

Wisconsin	84
Missouri	78
Ohio	68
Georgia	52
Idaho	47
Colorado	46
Alabama	35
Indiana	29
Michigan	29
Nevada	29
South Dakota	29
Nebraska	27

25-11 Ranges

Texas	24
West Virginia	24
Pennsylvania	23
Arkansas	18
North Dakota	17
North Carolina	16
Oklahoma	15
South Carolina	14
Tennessee	14
Kentucky	12
New Jersey	12
Arizona	11
Florida	11

10-3 Ranges

Iowa	10
Utah	10
Alaska	9
Vermont	8
Virginia	8
Hawaii	7
Connecticut	6
Louisiana	5
Kansas	4
Mississippi	4
New Mexico	4
California	3
Maine	3
Oregon	3

2-0 Ranges

New Hampshire	2
Delaware	1
Maryland	1
Massachusetts	1
New York	1
Rhode Island	1
Virgin Islands	1
Illinois	0
Minnesota	0
Montana	0
Washington	0
Wyoming	0

Let us help you PLAN YOUR RANGE PROJECTS

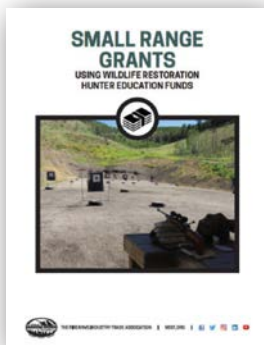


There are many resources available
to state agencies for planning and developing ranges.



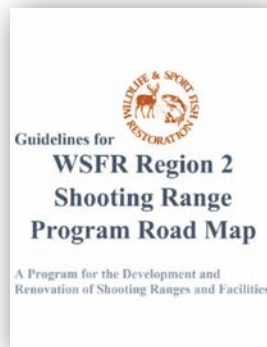
To access these documents, use
this QR code or visit
partnerwithapayer.org

Here are a few documents to get started:



NSSF Small Range Grants

16-page primer on using Wildlife
Restoration Hunter Education
funds for range development,
with examples and frequently
asked questions.



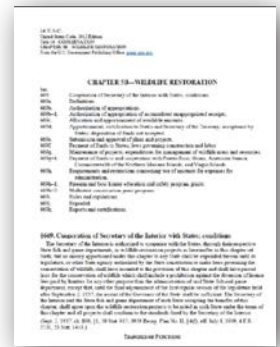
Shooting Range Program Road Map

23-page overview of WSFR's
Development and Renovation of
Shooting Ranges and Facilities.



ATA Archery Park Development Guide

49-page guide with tips, design
recommendations, and case
studies for building community
archery parks.



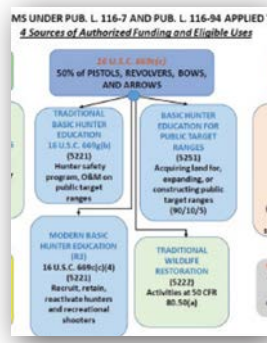
Compliance Process Guidance from WSFR

23-page walkthrough document
for NEPA and grant compliance
processes.



Funding Public Target Ranges

1-page quick reference guide to
each WSFR funding source for
public ranges, with state and federal
cost share and eligible activities
described for each source.



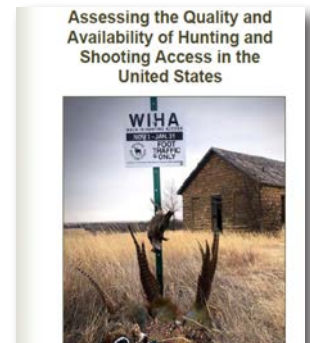
Funding Mechanisms under Wildlife Restoration

2-page document with a diagram
of funding mechanisms and eligible
uses under the Wildlife Restoration
Act.



NRA Range Sourcebook

A 27-chapter technical manual and
guide to planning and construction
of shooting ranges. Available
as part of the NRA's Range
Development and Operations
Course.



Assessing the Quality and Availability of Hunting and Shooting Access in the U.S.

A 377-page report by the NSSF presented
as part of an overarching assessment of the
quality and availability of hunting and sport
shooting access

Sources for Matching Funding

MidwayUSA Foundation's Range Development Grants

While the Range Development grants are meant for MidwayUSA Foundation Team and Agency endowment holders, certain non-endowment organizations such as conservation groups and universities may apply. Such applications must directly benefit local youth shooting teams, thus enabling greater youth involvement in shooting sports.

NRA Public Range Grant Funding

This matching grant program encourages city and county governments, and state or federal agencies, to work with the NRA to build and improve public ranges. At the NRA's sole discretion, grants assist with the acquisition, development, and improvement of public shooting facilities. Grants also assist qualifying agencies or governments with projects designed to improve community relations and to address environmental issues related to range operations.

NRA Foundation State Fund Capital Improvement Grants

The NRA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. As such, funded projects must promote an allowable 501(c)(3) purpose. If your range is owned by a government agency or is incorporated as a nonprofit entity or has an IRS 501(c) Determination Letter, your range may qualify for the grant.

RANGE SPOTLIGHT



South Cushman Shooting Range
Fairbanks, AK

The Fairbanks North Star Borough, South Cushman Shooting Range commenced renovation planning in 2019. These renovations, completed in 2022, include a new rifle range shelter roof, refurbished shooting benches, new and ADA-accessible parking areas.



Spring Valley Wildlife Area Shooting Range
Waynesville, OH

The Spring Valley Wildlife Area Shooting Range provides a safe location to practice and enjoy public recreational shooting. Wildlife Restoration funds helped complete improvements, such as newly constructed shooting benches and safety barriers, along with the construction of an Outdoor Education Center, which will be a hub of hunter education and R3 activities.

From League to Life: Impact of Life Skills and Wildlife Restoration Funds for Shooting Sports Participants

By Samantha Pedder

What is the value of a dollar spent or an experienced lived? Sometimes stories and reports quantify and convey the tangible, beneficial value generated when state fish and wildlife agencies put dollars on the ground through the Wildlife Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) program. Acres of habitat managed, wildlife research projects conducted, species conserved – the list goes on and on of the positive impacts that federal excise tax dollars, generated by purchases of items such as firearms and ammunition, have had to help wildlife thrive through the WSFR program. At times though, the impact these same dollars have on the people who use these managed resources goes unnoted. Hunters, target shooters, anglers, boaters, and wildlife watchers benefit when WSFR dollars are strategically spent, sometimes in unrecognized ways.

Investing for Lasting Impacts for Participants

New target shooters benefit greatly when state fish and wildlife agencies invest in constructing target shooting ranges. Lack of places to target shoot has been identified by target shooters as a barrier to their participation, and with a public range, agencies provide a place where new target shooters may hone their skills in a safe environment. Additional investments to support target shooting programs further the impact too. Agencies have provided support for target shooters by offering training for coaches of high school shotgun team leagues, equipment grants to help teams acquire firearms, and even grants to local clubs to expand their range services to the public.

Over the last decade, with agencies' support, many youth target shooting leagues have formed and offered hundreds of thousands of youth the chance to learn to target shoot. These leagues continue to grow at rapid rates. In Minnesota alone in 2017, participation in school-sponsored clay target leagues exceeded participation in high school hockey teams – for men and women combined. I have interacted many coaches, athletes, and program managers of these leagues, and they always have one thing in common – an agreement that these programs generate not only target shooters but also create future leaders, conservation ambassadors, and lifelong participants.

Applying League Skills in Life

Jon Zinnel serves as an example of a shooting sports program graduate. As a former 4-H National Shooting Sports ambassador and competitor, Zinnel pursued a degree in environmental science and now serves as the Senior Manager of Conservation and Youth Shooting Sports for Federal Premium, Remington, Hevi-Shot, and CCI Ammunition. His company is one of many that pay the federal excise tax on ammunition sales each quarter, which funds the WSFR grant program, and now his work helps to support conservation and youth shooting sports programs across the country.

“4-H Shooting Sports introduced me to the shooting sports industry and helped me find a career path forward,” Zinnel commented. “Programs such as 4-H and others not only teach athletes to be great shots but also good stewards of the industry and conservation.

The skills, discipline, confidence, and ethics instilled in youth during these developmental programs help to carry them forward in life and become a member of the larger conservation and target shooting community.”

Holding to this belief, the brands Jon represents maintain a long history of supporting the growing community of target shooters and conservationists. Federal Ammunition was at the table to help start the 4-H Shooting Sports program back in 1937, and annually these brands offer support to multiple youth shooting sports programs across the country. The ammunition brand's mission statement embodies their role, stating they set out to “Build Better Ammunition in America to Create Community, Power Defense and Conserve Our Heritage.” As Jon says, our ammo brands “support almost every national conservation and youth shooting sports organization. We recognize the opportunity to give back to these programs, even beyond the excise tax, and we are proud to do our part to support our communities.”



The 4-H Shooting Sports Nationals Team pictured after practicing shotgun on a WSFR Funded Range in Vermont in preparation for 2022 National Competition in Nebraska. Credit: Kandy Petty/Vermont 4H Shooting Sports Program.



Nearly 8,000 of target shooters and their community members gather for a state tournament in Minnesota. Credit: Kingdom Filmworks 2022/USFWS.

Connecting to Local Communities

Another benefit of the presence of target shooting ranges and supporting educational programs is the impact on the local communities. Creating a connected community of youth, families, and new target shooters is often highlighted as a benefit when people describe shooting sports programs. John Nelson, president of the growing USA Clay Target League, echoed the community tie as well. USA Clay Target League is one of several popular youth shooting sports leagues, with membership across 36 states serving approximately 45,000 students in the last school year. Each team in the League is connected to a school, and students from 6th grade through college participate. All competitors from a school compete on the same team and follow the same rules, allowing all genders and adaptive athletes to compete on the same “playing field.”

“Through the League, we are connecting students with local ranges to target shoot and participate in their communities,” commented Nelson. “38% of our students do not compete in another school sport, and target shooting is for them. This participation is critical as national research has shown that when students are involved in sports and activities through their schools, they do better and are more likely to succeed. By connecting them with the ranges, we set them up for a place to go after the season ends too, so this isn’t just a sport for one season.”

Because of the critical partnerships with local ranges, USA Clay Target League surveys its range partners to identify new opportunities to help their students succeed. In the most recent survey of more than 500 ranges, 86% of the ranges shared that they’ve made some improvements to support the shooting teams. “Whether they are installing new equipment or expanding trap fields, these ranges and communities formed around these teams are working together to support these kids and help to get as many involved as possible,” commented Nelson. “It’s incredible to be a part of and help these students succeed in life.”

Expanding Opportunities in the Future

Confidence, community connections, family engagement - it is clear that youth and families involved in these shooting sports programs benefit immensely. The logical next question is how might the conservation community expand this opportunity to more youth and new target shooters of all ages? Fortunately, both Zinnel and Nelson offered some insights. Based on the range survey conducted by the League of the ranges that made improvements to their facilities, only 25% did so using grant money from their state fish and wildlife agencies. “We are unsure why the number is so low, but we do know that there is an opportunity for increased support with WSFR funds for teams in the future,” commented Nelson. Zinnel echoed, “We’ve noticed more and more that state agencies are increasing their support of target shooting ranges and programs, and we’re thrilled. We’re proud to play our role beyond paying the excise tax to support these programs, but we can’t do it alone. In the future, as agencies continue to build more ranges and offer more support to programs like 4-H and others, we know that we’ll be able to expand the positive impact of these programs to youth and families and collectively grow the community together.”



A squad of target shooters participate in a high school trap league competition during the summer of 2022. Credit: Kingdom Filmworks 2022/USFWS.