



SOUTH DAKOTA

SHOOTING SPORT COMPLEX

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Game, Fish and Parks South Dakota Shooting Sport Complex aims to be the premier firearms range complex in the region. Four hundred acres of rolling topography offer the perfect site for sporting enthusiasts within minutes of several surrounding communities.

Organized in two separate areas (north and south), the complex offers a wider variety of options for all levels from hunters and recreational shooters to law enforcement training spaces. Designed with safety in mind, the range complex will offer people, families, and youth groups a world class opportunity to participate in multiple shooting sports.

Currently, there is only one public pistol/firearm range in western South Dakota, located in Fall River county. This range will reduce the use of unofficial/make shift firearm ranges in western South Dakota, increasing both the safety and experience for these shooters as well as hikers, bikers and other wildlife watchers enjoying the Black Hills.

There is plenty of room for beginners and experts to shoot side by side with facilities for education, outreach, and organized shooting competitions. The Master Plan is presented in phases for development based on funding availability and potential growth based on the growing needs of the sporting population.

This Master Plan is a celebration of South Dakota's outdoor heritage and an invitation to what lies ahead for the recruitment, retention and reactivation of shooting sports statewide.

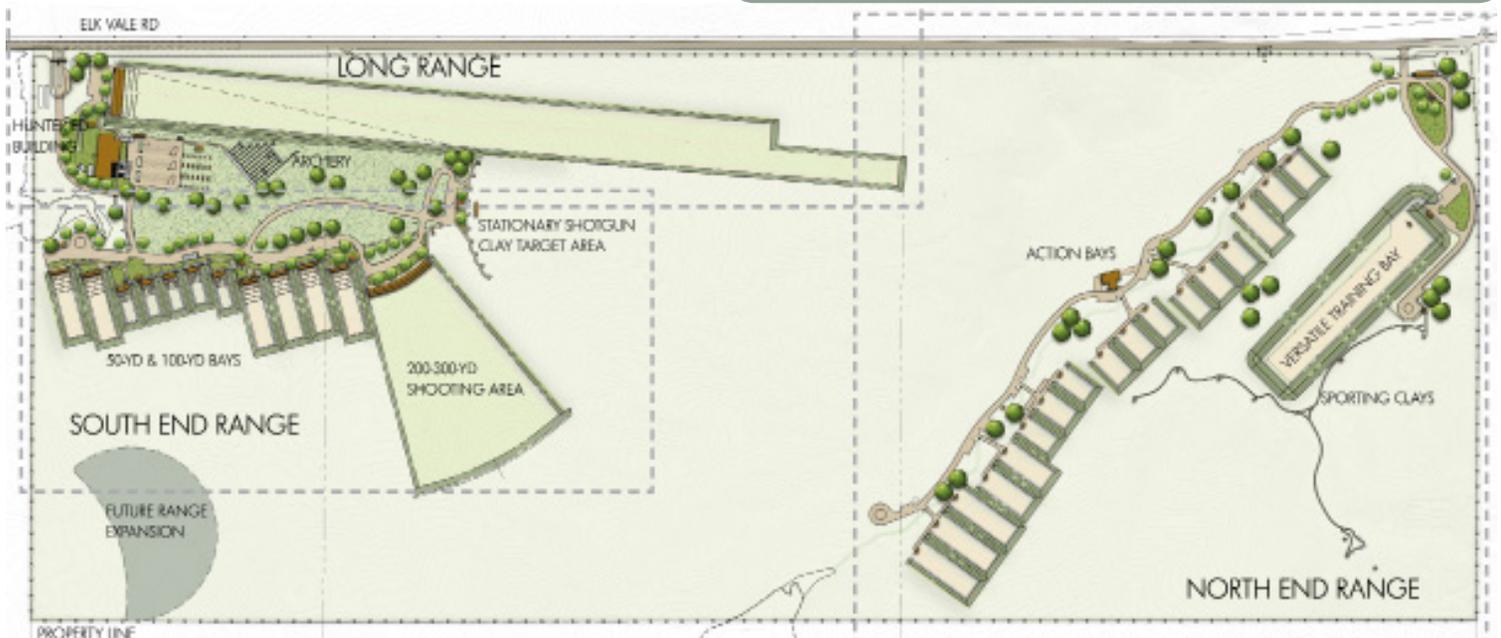
PROJECT GOALS

- » To provide a safe, designated place for individuals, youth and families, as well as school groups, boys/girls scouts, and 4H shooting sports to learn and practice.
- » To create one complex that provides all amenities that is well organized and flows nicely.
- » To build a range that supports the R3 Efforts: To recruit, retain, reactivate outdoor enthusiasts while hosting introductory to shooting sports classes with an emphasis on inclusivity, youth, and women.
- » To build a community partnership project.
- » To design a complex that feels convenient, safe, and easy to use - just a few minutes from surrounding communities.

5 SCHOOLS OFFERING HUNTSAFE IN THE CLASSROOM

1. Rapid City Stevens
2. Rapid City Central
3. New Underwood
4. Sturgis
5. Belle Fourche

Students who take HuntSAFE as part of their school curriculum will be able to bring their parents and family members to this range so they can show them the lessons they were taught in their class. This range will provide an additional opportunity for new and young hunters to practice the lessons they learned in their HuntSAFE class so they are ready for opening day. The department plans to host HuntSAFE courses here as well.



WHY DOES SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS CARE ABOUT SHOOTING SPORTS AND SHOOTING RANGES IN SOUTH DAKOTA?

The Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) has a history of promoting safe and accessible shooting sports opportunities for residents and visitors to SD. We have a commitment to providing shooting range opportunities on public lands and a shooting range grant program to assist with maintenance and development of private ranges in exchange for public access to those ranges. Currently GFP operates 19 shooting ranges across SD.

In the late 1930s, an existing excise tax on firearms and ammunition was redirected to state fish and wildlife agencies for wildlife species restoration. What became known as the Pittman-Robertson (PR) Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration

Act has provided over \$12 billion to states since it was put in place. While the bulk of the funding is used for wildlife management, PR funds have also been used by states to build and maintain shooting ranges. Now, with the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act signed into law in 2019, states have even more flexibility to use these funds to construct and enhance public shooting ranges. Recreational shooters are a key constituency helping to pay into the PR funding program. GFP recognizes that recreational shooters pay a large portion of excise taxes on their guns and ammunition that put funds into the PR program.

55%

Approximately 55% of South Dakota voters own a firearm.

In 2007, PR apportionments were approximately **\$267 million** and in 2015 increased to **\$808 million** almost entirely due to non-hunting recreational shooters.

Southwick Associates estimates that there are approximately **159,400 shooting sports participants in South Dakota** that spend an average of **1,336,200 days of shooting annually**. This activity is estimated to support **846 jobs** with salaries and wages totaling **\$27 million** in South Dakota.

Shooting sports in South Dakota generate an estimated...

\$55
MILLION
in retail sales

\$6
MILLION
in federal taxes
annually

\$4
MILLION
in state and
local taxes

Support for the second amendment, recreational shooting and acceptance of firearms in the public is a key factor in keeping our hunting heritage alive now and in the future.

South Dakota receives approximately 11.7 million dollars in PR funding, which is used to wildlife management and other conservation efforts.

