

Shooting Facilities and Improvements Development and Oversight Task Force
August 10, 2026, Meeting Summary

Complex Subcommittee Report Out

The subcommittee decided to put together a Letter of Interest (LOI) based on the Wyoming LOI to gauge interest in a complex. They also discussed areas and entities where they are interested in sending the proposals. Concerns arose from the committee about the existing smaller ranges. They concluded that the LOI will just focus on the complex. Additionally, they will come up with a plan to bolster local ranges.

Lands Subcommittee Report Out

The subcommittee looked at different land management agencies, locations, and how land transfers may happen. DNRC land would be challenging to use because it requires the land board to make the decision, but they are primarily looking towards tangible economic benefit. FWP land would also be challenging because available land is focused on conservation. BLM transfers or City/ County Government could be a feasible option. Funding could come from a variety of sources, including grants, local or regional Economic Development Organizations, US FWS/ PR, EDA, and conservation organizations.

Funding Subcommittee Report Out

Most shooting complex utilized a mixture of private and federal funding. Montana could follow their lead and use funding from PR, local economic development corporations, Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA), State Tourism Grants, National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), NRA Foundation, Conservation Organizations, County Infrastructure, Corporate Sponsorships, Community Foundations, and User Revenue (Long-Term Sustainability) to fund a complex.

Public Feedback Session 1

Randall Knowles said that in the past, the Friends of the NRA group usually tried to provide matching money for a range grant for FWP whom had a close relationship with, but it fell apart. They have been trying to redevelop that relationship, without luck. The organization gives away around \$400k per year, for youth shooting programs and ranges. The funding could be better allocated if FWP could work with them.

Work Session

The committee chose to focus on a 2-pronged approach of investigating interest in a complex and working with local ranges that already exist. The main problems that they see from the public are that they cannot afford to match grants, they have nonstructured ranges that don't apply for grants, and they cannot afford to pay the increased lease payments.

The committee agreed that land transfers are not straightforward. Seth Berglee moved to pursue setting up a road map to transfer federal state ownership to a designated shooting area.

Legislatively, the committee could work on a proposal to set lease costs. Additionally, Sen. Curdy and Rep. Seekins-Crowe will come up with ideas for a bill to expand on Senate Bill 247 to broaden funding.

Given that the DNRC land would be difficult to obtain, the committee decided to talk to the BLM and Forest Service about opportunities, especially given the Explore Act which is mandating that they identify target shooting ranges that exist on their land. FWP was tasked with researching how they could help with a complex and what it would take for FWP to operate a complex (budget, funding, FTE, operating costs, etc.)

The RFI will be finalized at the September meeting and sent out before the October meeting. FWP and Commerce will help to send it out to entities that make sense.