

Shooting Facilities and Improvements Development and Oversight Task Force
July 7, 2026, Meeting Summary

Introduction

Deb O'Neill gave an overview of the agenda.

Q&A w/Walt Proulx, Cameo Shooting and Education Complex Manager

Walt Proulx works for Colorado DNR and has been involved in the Cameo Shooting and Education Complex since its early stages. He also continues to consult on major range projects across the country. His biggest takeaway from large shooting complexes is that location is the most important consideration and if it is in the wrong place, it will fail. Other considerations for choosing a location include year-round weather, lodging, interstate access, local population support, north-facing areas, geographic features, and proximity to an airport.

The Cameo range has been open since August of 2018 and sits on 1,800 acres. Proulx recommends that a complex should sit on at least 2,000 acres. Their project was in conjunction with the local town who leases them property at a low annual cost. There are about 150,000 people who live within an hour of the range and there is ample lodging in the greater metropolitan area for visitors. The range has helped the local economy, as shown by data collected by the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations. Local businesses have gotten more patronage since the facility opened. The range hosts large and small events, including 539 permitted events last year. Their fee structure includes day passes (\$12), annual passes (\$150), and other events. Their operating budget is \$460,000, not including FTE and their goal is to remain revenue neutral.

Report outs

Seth Berglee, Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe, and Liz Whiting met with several people from Wyoming and South Dakota to learn more about their shooting ranges. A CEO was hired to run the Cody facility. Cody was chosen as the location for the Wyoming complex partially because of Yellowstone tourism. Some committee members were opposed to the location because of weather, wind, and topography. CMP did a \$10 million match with Cody, and if it goes well, they will consider a match with another state. Christie and Andy visited a New Mexico shooting facility and noted that they have lodging and hiking available in addition to a facility for banquets and a welding and maintenance area.

Shooting Facility Surveys Discussion

The group reviewed the survey summaries and noted that respondents (80%) wanted a large facility and one with more opportunities.

Work Session

The group formed three subcommittees to consider pursuing the complex and its parameters, funding for clubs and a complex, and land use requirements. These subcommittees will help investigate what it takes to build a destination shooting facility as well as continuing to explore how to support existing facilities in Montana.

Public Feedback Sessions

No one raised their hand for public comment.

Subcommittee Assignments

The Complex subcommittee will be chaired by Mitch and includes Seth, Liz, Rich, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, Sen. Curdy, and Rep. Sprunger. The Funding subcommittee will be chaired by Mandy and includes Rich, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, Seth, Sen. Curdy, and Mitch. Sam, Renee, and Lena Havron will provide FWP staff assistance. The Land Use subcommittee will be chaired by Seth and includes Andy, Rich, Sen. Fuller, Christie, and Sen. Curdy. Jeff will provide FWP staff support.

Final Comments and Next Steps

Please email Deb about your availability for subcommittee meetings and any mileage changes. The subcommittees will meet to discuss their given topics so that the task force can work towards producing recommendations. The next meeting will be on August 10th in Helena with a virtual option.