

May, Jesse

From: Lemon, Renee
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 5:08 PM
To: May, Jesse
Cc: Hoggatt, Samuel
Subject: FW: DFWP shooting ranges?

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Jesse,

I'm guessing you already received this comment on the Logan Public Shooting Range for the next parks board meeting, but just making sure.

Thanks,
Renee

From: O'Neill, Deb <DOneill@mt.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 2:42 PM
To: Seekins Crowe, Kerri <Kerri.Seekins-Crowe@legmt.gov>; Fuller, John <John.Fuller@legmt.gov>; apacherider11@gmail.com; Curdy, Willis <Willis.Curdy@legmt.gov>; willcurdy@gmail.com; Sprunger, Courtenay <Courtenay.Sprunger@legmt.gov>; sethberglee@gmail.com; andy@skinnersights.com; christie.knudsen.mt@gmail.com; Rambo, Mandy <Mandy.Rambo@mt.gov>; Roth, RICHARD <Richard.Roth@mt.gov>; fwparksdistrict3@gmail.com; Mitch King <mitch@mtoutdoorlegacy.org>
Cc: Hindoi, Jeff <Jeff.Hindoi@mt.gov>; Lemon, Renee <RLemon@mt.gov>; Hoggatt, Samuel <Samuel.Hoggatt@mt.gov>; Schaus, Natalie <Natalie.Schaus@mt.gov>
Subject: FW: DFWP shooting ranges?

FYI

Deb O'Neill | *Special Projects Administrator*
Headquarters | Director's Office
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 594-9023



THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

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From: gary marbut.com <gary@marbut.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 4:08 PM
To: O'Neill, Deb <DONeill@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: DFWP shooting ranges?

Deb,

FYI.

Gary

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gary Marbut <mssa@mtssa.org>
Date: Aug 31, 2026 at 3:00 PM
To: gary marbut.com [marbut.com] <gary@marbut.com>
Subject: DFWP shooting ranges?

Dear MSSA Friends,

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks is proposing to get into the shooting range business. MSSA opposes this mission creep for DFWP. On September 22, the Montana Parks Board will consider a proposal for DFWP to move forward with a range near Logan, just south of I-90 in Gallatin County.

I thought you might be interested in MSSA's comment to the Park Board, posted below. Feel free to add your two cents, or just agree with the MSSA position. Unfortunately, they don't offer an email address for comment, although there is some option via their website that I haven't used. All comments are due by September 14th. Here is the letter I mailed in:

August 28, 2026

State Parks & Recreation Board
c/o FWP Liaison – Director's Office
PO Box 200701
Helena MT, 59620-0701

Subject: DFWP-proposed shooting range near Logan

Dear Montana State Parks and Recreation Board Members,

The Montana Shooting Sports Association recognizes that Gallatin County has a deficit of safe and suitable places for people to shoot. We strongly encourage that something be done about this shortage, which may cause user and other conflicts on public lands in Gallatin County.

However, we also strongly oppose DFWP operating shooting ranges – any shooting ranges. DFWP lacks

the mission, experience, knowledge, institutional expertise, manpower, and funding to become a shooting range developer and operator. In other states where this has been attempted, it has turned into an underfunded and understaffed boondoggle. Publicly-owned and operated ranges can end up with very limited hours of operation and serviceability because of staffing and funding shortfalls. Too often, the shooting opportunities offered are developed with inadequate appreciation for or misunderstanding of what the public wants in a shooting facility.

We recommend, in the order presented, alternatives to address the same local need.

1. Locate an existing shooting range that is working well and encourage the local citizens who manage that range to take over the project of developing and operating the new shooting facility intended for the Logan area. We first recommend approaching the Manhattan Wildlife Association which operates the successful shooting range north of I-90 near the Logan exit. If MWA were willing to undertake this task, the project would gain an invaluable pool of experience, competence, and local volunteers and connections.
2. Organize a group of responsible and committed local citizens who will form a nonprofit corporation to organize the development and management of the proposed new facility near Logan. MSSA stands ready to provide much needed assistance for this group, if it can be assembled.
3. Any other formula that we haven't conceived that does not involve DFWP owning and operating shooting ranges.

Regardless of what solution to the obvious need in Gallatin County is found, it should not involve DFWP developing and operating a new shooting facility near Logan, for reasons already stated. And, MSSA pledges coaching, expertise, and other assistance for any other solution.

Sincerely,

--

Gary Marbut, President

Montana Shooting Sports Association

<http://www.mtssa.org> [mtssa.org]

Author, *Gun Laws of Montana*

<http://www.mtpublish.com> [mtpublish.com]