



Montana Shooting Sports Association, Inc.

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Asserting the Rights of Gun Owners in Montana

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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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Marbut", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gary Marbut, president
Montana Shooting Sports Association