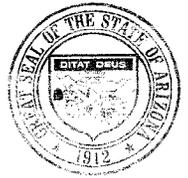




THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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March 15, 2007

Tucson Rifle Club
Will Schmall, President
Al Speert, Vice President
HC 2 Box 7128
Tucson, Arizona 85735-9729

RE: SAFETY CONCERNS ON 3-POINTS SHOOTING FACILITY

Dear Mr. Schmall and Mr. Speert,

This is to advise the Tucson Rifle Club of needed improvements and safety concerns that were observed on my visit to the 3-Points Shooting Facility on January 24, 2007. The department visited several ranges on the site, and discussed with Larry Novak the issues associated with each individual range. The following is a summary of each range in the order that we reviewed the facility.

1000 Yard Range

- The 1000 yard range needs to have lateral and impact berm work done to protect any individuals on the adjacent pistol action ranges.
Action Needed: The 1000 yard range needs lateral berms of 20 feet and a minimum impact berm of 20 feet to protect anyone using the action pistol range. Until this happens the Cowboy Action Ranges and the 1000 yard range should not be open at the same time.
- Individuals were observed camping directly south of the action pistol range within the safety zone of the 1000 yard range.
Action Needed: Campers need to stop camping in the safety zone of the 1000 yard range when this range is in use. A gate is needed to stop traffic before it can enter the safety area of the 1000 yard range. Until this is installed, no one is allowed to use the 1000 yard range and be able to enter the safety area. The camping area can be used when shooters are shooting from distances of 500 yards or less.

Cowboy Action Ranges

This location was not approved by BLM, AZGFD Habitat Branch, or Engineering Staff from AZGFD Development Branch.

- The area designated for Cowboy Action Shooting is located in the safety zone of the 1000 yard range.



Action Needed: When this range is in use the 1000 yard range should not be used at any distance.

- There is a major safety concerns with lateral berms and impact berms on the cowboy action range. The berms being approximately 6 feet high with hay bales on the top and the impact berm not at 20 feet high.

Action Needed: The lateral berms should be 12 feet minimum height and the impact berm should be a minimum of 20 feet. Until these are constructed, adjacent cowboy action ranges and adjacent silhouette range can not be used at the same time.

- Metallic targets are being shot on this range at close distances.
Action Needed: Metallic targets on this range should not be shot closer than 7 yards and preferably with only frangible ammunition.
- There is a sign on this range that states: Warning adjacent ranges are in the line of fire to 4 other ranges. Having this sign posted does not alleviate the range or club from building the ranges and berms correctly.

DPS Range

- This range needs to have the lateral berms increased and additional engineering to orientate the range to prohibit shooting at angles.

Action Needed: Lateral berms and impact berms need to be increased to 20 feet to accommodate shooting in fan motions. Until these berms are constructed, adjacent ranges should not be in use at the same time. Additional engineering and grading work needs to be done for drainage and runoff purposes

Rifle Silhouette

- The lateral and impact berms need to be raised.

Action Needed: The lateral berms need to be raised 12 feet high and the main impact berm needs to be 20 feet high. Until this is done, adjacent ranges should not be used.

- The berms located at the target areas need to be increased to prevent ricochets.

Action Needed: The silhouette impact berms need to be increased to minimum requirements of 3 feet or twice the size of the largest silhouette used. Additional engineering and grading work done needs to be done for drainage and leveling.

Main 100 Yard Range

- It was observed that three shooters were shooting targets lower than the line of sight and a majority of the impacts hitting at about 6 inches to 1 foot from the top of the berm and some not making an impact at all. This indicates that shot fire is leaving this shooting range.
- This range has had modifications to the floor making it lower than the shooting position, creating an unsafe situation with gun fire being directed at the ground and ricocheting over the impact berm. The main 100 yard range needs to have berms that are constructed to provide impact directly into the impact berm and or the lateral berms measured from the shooting position.

Action Needed: This range will need some engineering work to increase the floor height and grading to create drainage. The lateral berms need to be increased to 12 feet above the shooting position and the impact berm needs to be increased to 20 feet above the shooting position. Until this is done, the target stands need to be constructed in a manner that the target placement is high enough for the shooter to directly impact the berm with a level or near level shot.

500 Meter Rifle Silhouette Range

- The west lateral berm and the main impact berm need to be raised to 12 feet on the lateral and 20 feet on the impact berm. There is currently no berm on the east side of the facility where housing is located.

Action Needed: The west lateral berm needs to be increased to 12 feet and the impact berm needs to be increased to 20 feet. The east lateral berm needs to be constructed 12 feet high, the full length of the range to prevent any bullets from leaving the range. **Until this is constructed this range should not be used**

The likelihood of a bullet leaving this range is high due to low and non-existing berms, even if shooters are shooting directly into the impact berms. Due to current conditions the Department recommends that all shooting on 3-points shooting facility be monitored by range officers and that all shooting is done in a manner that goes directly into the impact berms. This means that no shooting should be allowed where a bullet could directly impact the range and ricochet over the lateral or impact berms. To correct this all targets should be at a level where the bullet goes directly into the impact berm. Lateral shooting into the side berms or cross firing into the impact berms should be prohibited. All adjacent ranges that do not have the minimum height requirement for lateral berms should not be used when shooting is being conducted on this range.

Sincerely,



Anthony Chavez
Statewide Shooting Range Administrator

Cc: Dana Yost, Assistant Director IEED
Ty Gray, Education Branch Chief
Gerry Perry, Region V, Regional Supervisor
G.M. Merrill, Engineer SSDV

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