

# Billings Rod and Gun Club Pistol Range Survey

## RESULTS

### Capacity

Do you feel that the pistol, rimfire and muzzleloader rifle range at BR&G Club offer enough capacity to adequately serve the current recreational and competition shooting needs of the 2000 family club membership? Circle one --- YES - 6 NO - 4

If you answered NO --- how many more shooting locations should be provided?

- 1) Need at least 3 more pistol bays for matches. Best would be dedicated ranges for prop-dependent disciplines such as USPSA and cowboy.
- 2) 3 to 4 to the west and maybe some to the east?
- 3) The target range should add 3 – 4 benches to the west. The berms should be extended to accommodate the extra benches. Additionally, a berm should be erected that extends down the west side of the range from the 100 yard berm past the firing line for safety and noise abatement toward Rehberg Ranch. The east end may need additional bays to accommodate the growing action pistol sports at our club. If the bays are expanded, Skeet Field 5 will have to be reorientated more toward the south 20 to 30 degrees. Currently, the easternmost bay experiences shot fallout from that field – when shooters are on station 7 and/or 8.
- 4) Pistol needs 2 more bays and one additional one to accommodate AR-15's.
- 5) Need expansion to number of pistol bays.

### Amenities

Do you feel that the existing pistol, rimfire and muzzleloader range equipment, building and site infrastructure are adequate? Circle one ---- YES - 6 NO -5

If you answered NO what items could be improved?

- 1) Need a plan to use building interiors to maximize storage and reduce clutter. Need another outhouse. Need shade shelters for pistol bays.
- 2) Improve berms to accommodate .223 AR usage.
- 3) Fixed target standards for defensive pistol shooting at times other than action pistol. AR 15/shotgun/pistol close contact shooting area for 3 gun and training.
- 4) The 100 yard berm has settled 4 to 6 feet and needs to be elevated. The intermediate berms have settled or are being shot out and need to be elevated. The road needs to be plowed in the winter for access to the ranges. The caretaker and board excuse that it's not in the contract doesn't satisfy me or the other members who want to use the range in the winter.
- 5) I would like to see the bermed areas expanded to allow the safe shooting of tactical AR-15 type weapons and dangerous game rifles including double rifles. 100 yard targets are NOT adequate for practice with these rifles.

### Safety

The safe zone behind a pistol, rimfire and muzzleloader range should provide land for bullets that ricochet or are mistakenly shot over the berms. The required safe zone distances ranges from 4590' for .22 cal (almost one mile) 4265' for a .45 cal. pistol, or 6233' for a .38 cal. pistol. Some specialized guns may shoot upward of 2 miles at a 30 to 35 degree arc. Currently the safe zone for the BR&G Club rifle range is predominantly off the property to the north. This land area includes a variety of public and private lands. Another future item of interest is the proposed Innerbelt Loop connector road right-of-way which will connect Wicks Lane to Zimmerman Trail. The approved alignment is approximately ½ mile north of the BR&G Club property and the project, while not yet funded, is a high priority project that the City/County is attempting to fund so that it

is in place by 2012. The lack of an adequate safe zone at BR&G Club could create an unsafe liability for BR&G Club in the future. Given these facts do you feel that BR&G Club should: Circle all that apply.

- a) Move the pistol, rimfire and muzzleloader range to another property that offers a safe fall out zone. -1
- b) Build overhead baffles, ground baffles and increased berm protection that will contain all shots within the BR&G Club property. - 7
- c) Take no action - 1
- d) Other
  - 1) Re-orient ranges to provide safer fallout on existing property. Priority = d, b, a
  - 2) Increasing berm height will help control errant shots and ricochets, but probably won't completely eliminate them. Overhead baffles would work but are probably a high maintenance item considering their position on the field. Eyebrow baffles (baffles sited at the top of the 100 yard berm) may be almost as effective as the overheads.
  - 3) Take action agreed on by the best minds. –after research is completed – considering the impact & cost and current infrastructure.

### **Other Comments**

Please list any other comments that you may have which will assist the Master Planning efforts on the back of this sheet.

- 1) A more realistic job needs to be done of estimating storage and clubhouse needs of the rifle/pistol disciplines that hold matches attended by the public. The storage analysis must include improvements need inside the buildings to maximize storage potential. The pistol shooting bays and access walkways need to have an all weather shooting surface such as road mix. This will enhance safety as well as reduce weather related match cancellations. All buildings outhouses etc. should be built with handicap accessible features to encourage participation in shooting sports by disabled people.
- 2) Pistol Bays – If through with dirt work, consult on how to put down gravel to make surface accessible to wheel chairs. Wheel chair ramp to pistol building and pistol bathroom.