



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
106 SOUTH 15TH STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102-1618

December 7, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Environmental Remediation Branch

Michael H. Bevelhimer
Buffalo Creek Gun Club
12935 US Highway 285
Conifer, Colorado 80433

Dear Mr. Bevelhimer:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 2004, which provides a good deal of historic information about the Camp Fickes property. Camp Fickes is being investigated as part of the Department of Defense's (DoD) Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program. The FUDS project number is B08CO067300. Our initial review demonstrated that the property meets eligibility requirements and recommended a review of historic records to document DoD use of the property.

During the review we will conduct interviews and research in local libraries as well as those National Archives most likely to contain pertinent information. Part of what we will be looking for is what units used the range, types of weapons and the extent of usage. This effort is tentatively scheduled for 2006. The information you provided will be very helpful. We will likely contact you to request an interview.

Again, thank you for the information provided. It will get us off to a good start when we initiate the review. If you have any questions, please call Mr. William Bonneau at telephone number (402) 221-7830.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Plack
Chief, Environmental Remediation Branch
Planning, Programs and Project Management
Division



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
106 SOUTH 15TH STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102-1618
June 8, 2004

REPLY TO:

Environmental Remediation Branch

Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Attention: Mr. Edward J. LaRock
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530

Dear Mr. LaRock:

Reference: Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites
Inventory Project Report (INPR) for Property Number B08CO0067300, Camp
Fickes, Pike National Forest, Jefferson County, Colorado

We have examined the available data and documentation about Camp Fickes, Pike National Forest, in Jefferson County, Colorado.

Enclosed for your information, is a brief summary of the history and pertinent facts about Camp Fickes that are relevant to the lease the U.S. Army held in 1936 to 1938 for Camp Fickes, now known as the Buffalo Creek Gun Club. Camp Fickes was originally known as Fort Logan Target Range at Buffalo, Colorado.

There is another similarly named site known as Fort Logan Target Range near Parker, in Douglas County, Colorado; FUDS number B08CO0100000. Our records show that this particular Fort Logan Target Range encompassed about 960 acres, but was never utilized by DoD.

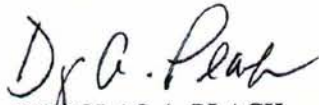
The U.S. Army used Camp Fickes for proficiency practice and testing for the Army Corps 2nd Engineer Regiment stationed at Fort Logan, Arapahoe County, Colorado for 2 years. Camp Fickes has been licensed to a private gun club for high power rifles usage since 1961 through today. The U.S. Army portion of any remediation necessary at the range is negligible. The U.S. Army's 2 years of use must be compared to the Buffalo Creek Gun Club's 40+ years of use.

We have determined that the U.S. Army used Camp Fickes in the 1930s, but there is only a limited reason to pursue any further actions at Camp Fickes under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites. That additional effort would be an Archive Search Report due to the use of the small arms firing range.

After you review the enclosed history, we trust you will agree with our opinion.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Mr. Marvin Taylor at (402) 221-7181, our Project Manager for this FUDS site.

Sincerely,



DOUGLAS A. PLACK
Authorized Representative of the
Contracting Officer

CF (w/encl):

USEPA Region VIII
David Rathke
999 18th Street (8EPR-EP)
Denver, CO 80202-2466

USDA Forest Service, Pike Nat'l Forest
South Platte River Office
Attn: Steve Priest, Asst. Ranger
19316 Goddard Ranch Court
Morrison, CO 80465

Buffalo Creek Gun Club
Attn: President, Mike Bevelhimer
12935 US Highway 285
Conifer, CO 80433

✓ Buffalo Creek Gun Club
Attn: President, Mike Bevelhimer
P.O. Box 16280
Golden, CO 80402

Camp Fickes, Pike National Forest, Jefferson County, Colorado
Camp Fickes is about 35 miles southwest of Denver, Colorado.

LOCATION:

Camp Fickes is located approximately 35 miles southwest of Denver, Colorado. It is about 8 miles southeast of the town of Bailey, or 6 miles southwest of Buffalo Creek, Colorado. On maps and aeriels, it is easily located about 1 mile north of the northwest end of Lake Wellington, Colorado. It is in Pike National Forest, specifically in the South Platte Ranger District. It is near the area of the Buffalo Creek Fire started on May 18, 1996.

There is another similarly named site known as Fort Logan Target Range near Parker, in Douglas County, Colorado; FUDS # B08CO0100000. The Fort Logan Target Range encompassed about 960 acres, but was never utilized by DOD. Camp Fickes is FUDS # B08CO0067300.

The Figure shows the vicinity of the Buffalo Creek recreation Area and Camp Fickes approximate location. The Aerial Photo clearly shows the current Buffalo Creek Gun Club and Lake Wellington in the same area.

While Camp Fickes was probably in the middle of nowhere in the 1930s, that is not the case today. The east end of the present range is almost exactly at the center of Section 20, Township 8 South, Range 71 West. The west end of the present range is very close to the quarter corner (half way point on the west border the section) of the same Section 20. In the southeast corner of Section 20, just about 3000 feet to the southeast is the former Colorado Lodge/ Buffalo Creek Lodge (available for retreats) that was recently sold to Joshua Finkler for \$266,000 to become a private residence.

The Jefferson County School District owns the historic "Sylvania of the Rockies" as an outdoor classroom year 'round. The facility is named the Windy Peak Outdoor Lab School, comprising more that a dozen buildings and structures, plus a fishing reservoir. This school is to the southwest, from the range, just a little over a mile away.

The Lost Acres Subdivision in Park County is just 1 mile to northwest from the range. The popular Wellington Lake and its campgrounds is a long mile directly south from the range.

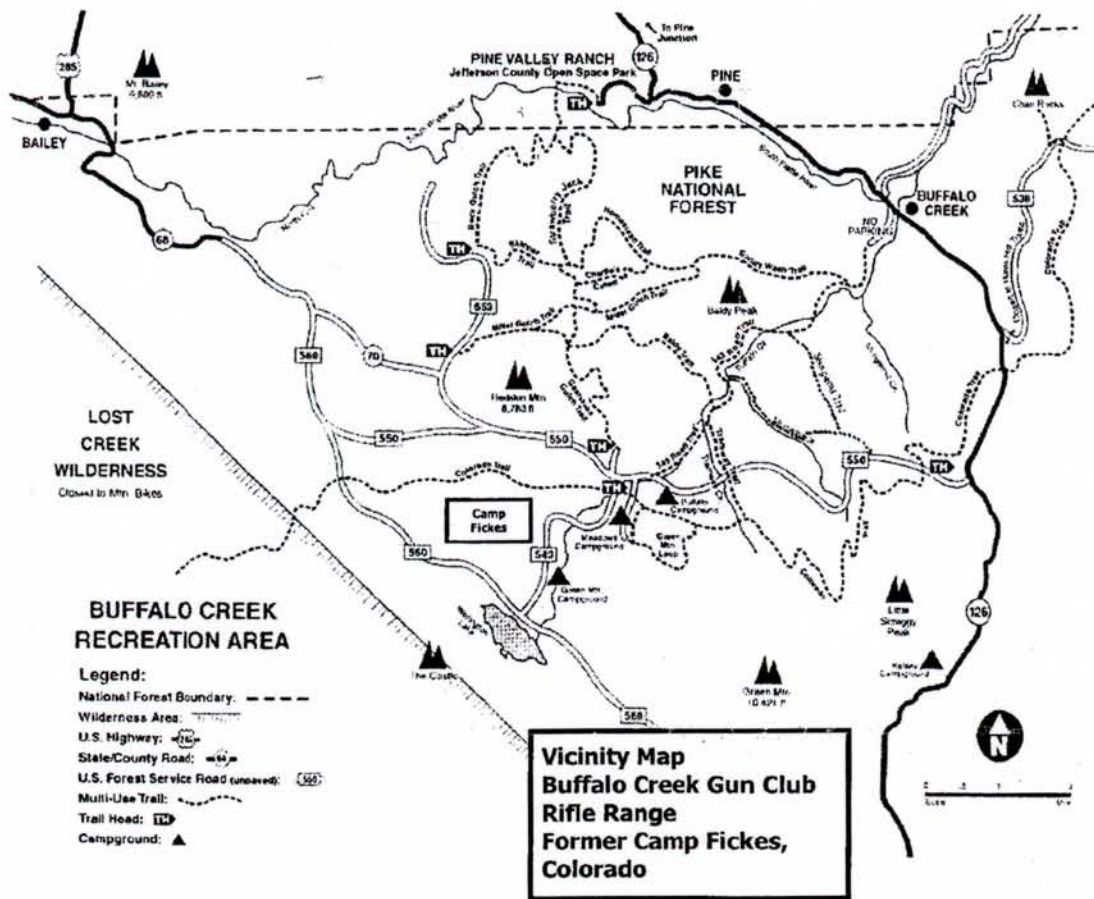
Most of the residences are on land leased for 99 years from the Forest Service, but there are many locations of private ownership in the National Forest. There are several privately owned parcels not mentioned above, but are nevertheless reasonably close to the range.

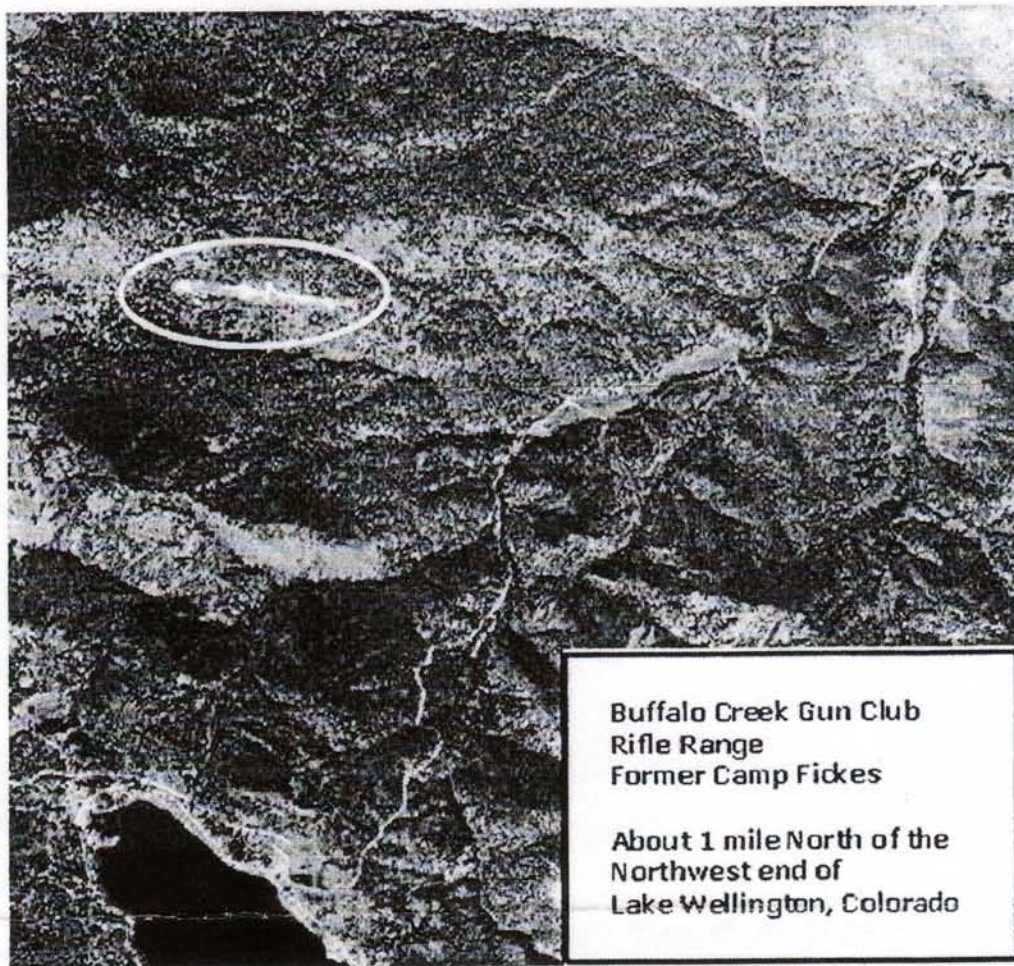
Additionally, the popular 500 mile long Colorado Trail crosses the range entrance road, parallels the range and is about 500 yards north of the range. Segment 3 is heavily used since it is close to Denver and bicycles are prohibited west of this area.

HISTORY: LAND TRANSACTIONS;

The lease between the U.S. Army and the Forest Service ran from August 4, 1936 to September 10, 1938 when the permits were allowed to expire and not be renewed. The permits were officially relinquished by the U.S. Army via letter to Department of Agriculture on 21 April 1949. Camp Fickes was about 45 acres in size.

In 1961 a permit was issued by the Forest Service for the facility to be used as a rifle range by the Buffalo Creek Gun Club. This activity by the lessee has been continuous though today.





Buffalo Creek Gun Club
Rifle Range
Former Camp Fickes

About 1 mile North of the
Northwest end of
Lake Wellington, Colorado

HISTORY: BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE;

The U.S. Army built 6 small sentry houses, 12 target frames, one range house, and safety fences to limit intrusion into the ranges while they were being used. The improvements were transferred to the Forest Service in lieu of restoration via letter dated 21 April 1949. The structures no longer remain.

The 1949 Army letter to the Department of Agriculture relinquishing the Special Use Permits stated:

“ The only improvements on the land consist of 12 target frames, a drift fence, six small sentry houses, and 1 range house, which the District Range, [sic] Buffalo Creek, Colorado, has agreed to accept in lieu of restoration. Decontamination is unnecessary as no explosives were used on the area which was used for a small arms range and apparently abandoned since the expiration of the permits in 1938.”

Buffalo Creek Gun Club has had an ambitious building program during its 40+ year history. They have built at least 15 target frames, an entrance road, 3 target sheds (progressively larger), a pavilion, a clubhouse, underground telephone lines, several toilets, and camp grounds complete with picnic tables and grills. Additionally, several new or upgraded firing berms were constructed. A parking lot evolved from the excavation for one of the berms.

HISTORY: OPERATIONS AND OCCUPATION;

Camp Fickes, Colorado was a rifle range used by the U.S. Army Engineers from Fort Logan to maintain proficiency in small arms. They certainly tents for their encampments at the site. They probably made the 30+ mile trip from Fort Logan to Camp Fickes in some of the Army's first motorized vehicles over the rough roads through Pike National Forest.

The most significant event came on May 25, 1937 when lightning struck the site and killed Second Lieutenant William P. Fickes while he as in charge of the construction. The camp was designated as Camp Fickes on December 2, 1937.

The Buffalo Creek Gun Club holds about 3 events per month in their 8-month usage period per year. Several of their events are open to the public for the purposes of proper training to use rifles. Additionally training and practice is provided for high power rifles, pistols, shotguns, and muzzleloaders. The Buffalo Creek Gun Club range has nationwide fame.

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES DESIGNATIONS:

The Department of Defense (DOD) evaluates a potential Formerly Used Defense Site based on whether or not the Site was formerly used by the DOD. After that, the potential of hazardous or dangerous materials or situations being left behind by DOD elements must be examined.

The U.S. Army used Camp Fickes via Special Use Permit from 1936 to 1938. However, nothing hazardous, dangerous, or contamination in nature was constructed or left behind by the U.S. Army as described below.

Building Debris and Building Removal:

During the 2 years of usage improvements were made. They were 6 small sentry houses, 12 target frames, and one range house. They were transferred to the Forest Service in lieu of restoration via letter dated 21 April 1949. The structures no longer remain.

Containerized Hazardous and Toxic Waste:

No underground or aboveground tanks were installed during the 2 years of usage.

Hazardous and Toxic Waste:

Only a temporary use latrine was installed at Camp Fickes.

Ordnance and Explosives:

A potential Ordnance and Explosives project is being considered due to the use of the small arms firing range. This range was a proficiency range for the Engineers stationed at Fort Logan. It was used from August 1936 to September 1938 when the permits were allowed to expire and not be renewed. In 1961 a permit was issued by the Forest Service for the facility to be used, as a rifle range by the Buffalo Creek Gun Club. This activity by the lessee has been continuous though today. It is a popular high-powered rifle range with nationwide fame and it is open to the public.

Preparation of an Archive Search Report is being considered.

REFERENCES:

PROPOSED BUFFALO CREEK RIFLE RANGE; Map by the 2D. ENGRS., SCALE 1:5000, 1936.

Special Use Permits between the U.S. Army and the Forest Service from August 4, 1936 to September 10, 1938

The Buffalo Creek Gun Club; <http://www.bcgcc.com>

Colorado Trail information; <http://www.coloradotrail.org>

Pike National Forest, South Platte Ranger District; <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/spl>

U.S. EPA; <http://www.epa.gov>

Jefferson County, Colorado; <http://co.jefferson.co.us>