

HARDHOLDER



Spring 2024

Welcome!

By Al Fisher, Secretary

Welcome to the BCGC newsletter. We are reviving the Hardholder, the club's quarterly newsletter, which has not been published since 2020. All of our authors welcome your questions and comments. We hope you enjoy this issue and will submit ideas for future issues.

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Proposal for 13 Pistol Bays

By Owen Maddox, President

Most of our BCGC Members already know the specifics that I will outline below concerning your club's Number One Project per unanimous consent of the BCGC Board of Directors (BOD). This article is to inform all newer members of the project which has been on our books for almost seven years.

At the beginning of 2017, the club submitted an "Improvement Request Form" to the US Forest Service (FS) which asked for an additional 10-12 acres be added to our 47.33 acre Permit for the purpose of building an additional nine Pistol Bays. See Figures 1 and 3. That request was well received by our local FS District but was not acted on by the FS Headquarters.

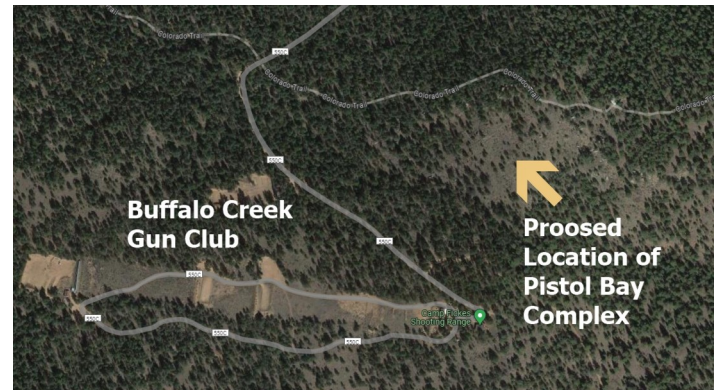


Figure 1: Proposed Location of Pistol Bay Complex

In December 2022, I received a call from our local FS District asking for a Zoom conference call the following day which would include representatives from their headquarters. The call resulted in the FS asking the club to join with them in a large project called the "Integrated Management of Target Shooting on the Pike National Forest". Our part in the project would be to totally revise our 2017 "Improvement Request Form" to include all possible ranges and disciplines that the club may want in the next 20 years.

We would have to agree to continue our normal operation of allowing the Public to use our range. We would continue to control the number of shooters and the cost of using our range. The FS agreed to pay for and have the Environmental Impact Study completed.

The catch was this: they needed the proposal the following day by noon. I informed them it would take a couple of weeks to get a formal proposal written, but I would give them an outline by their deadline. I informed the BCGC BOD of the request and received approval to proceed.

I provided the FS with the outline of what our revised request would be and the formal document a week later. The revision included the following:

1. **13 Pistol Bays** to include one set up for .22 Rimfire Bench Rest, which would be out to 100

yards. The other 12 bays would generally be 30 yards wide and 60 yards deep. Each bay would be separated by an earthen berm. Included would be two parking lots, four movable and lockable storage containers, a training facility, two double vault toilets and road access. All pistol matches would be moved to the bays, freeing up the Long Range for more rifle matches

2. **Sporting Clay Shotgun Range** consisting of a walking path with 10 shooting stands
3. **1,000-yard Steel Gong** in the form of a buffalo to be located on the hill behind our Long Range berm with a walking path to the buffalo
4. **Small Archery Practice Range** for sight-in and youth activities
5. **3-D Archery Range with walking path** and ten 3-D animal targets
6. **270 degree shooting range** with a shooting house
7. **14.5-acre Recreation Area** for families and kids along with rental possibility for businesses, with a parking lot and single vault toilet
8. **Single Vault Toilet** to be located south of the pit area, a double vault toilet located east of the Stat House and a single vault toilet located near the Short Range
9. **We requested the FS build another road** for entry/exit along with continued maintenance on both one-way roads.

The FS signed the revised proposal and stated they would be responsible for moving the Colorado Trail further away from our proposed pistol bay area.

Our permit area would be increased to 263 acres. The Environmental Impact Study has not been completed yet. When it is completed and the documents signed, the Pistol Bays will require an estimated six months to complete. Cost for the Pistol Bays will be approximately \$250,000 and currently we have raised and received donations of \$179,000. We welcome and encourage more recommended money-raising projects.

Six Compelling Benefits of Competitive Shooting

By Dean Barr, Match Director

Competitive shooting is a wonderful way for beginning to intermediate shooters to improve their shooting proficiency, have fun, and enjoy the camaraderie of other gun enthusiasts.

Do some of the following sound familiar?

- “I don’t feel safe shooting with other shooters with whom I am not familiar”
- “I feel pressure when shooting with a timer”
- “I can’t shoot with so many people watching me”
- “I’m not good enough to compete”

Benefits of Competitive Shooting Sports: Put your mind at ease! You can do this!

1. **Learning and Practicing Firearm Safety:**

Competition shooting sports follow strict firearm handling safety rules, and when practiced on a regular basis become second nature for the shooter.

2. **Learning to Shoot Under Pressure:** If you think that little timer is scary, think of facing a bad guy. Getting out to local matches on a regular basis and shooting under the pressure of the clock is a great way to cultivate your shooting skills with the presence of adrenaline and with a little less risk,

3. **Learning to Focus:** This may not happen at first, but shoot enough matches and you’ll be able to tune out what is going on around you as far as a distraction. You’ll learn that you won’t get the hits you need unless you are focused on what you’re doing: focusing on your front sight or focusing on the plan for shooting the scenario that is part of a stage. When you are fully focused on the task at hand, your shooting will become smoother.

4. **Learning the Mechanics of Your Firearm:** This is one of the biggest benefits of shooting local matches regularly. Unlike standing still and shooting at the range, when you shoot action pistol matches, you are practicing all your skills at the same time. You learn how to do reloads quicker and how to clear malfunctions easier. You know how the trigger break and trigger reset feels. You know without looking when your grip is right. You get to know and bond with your firearm, which will also increase your safety when using the firearm.

5. **Learning to Think Tactically:** When considering the best way to shoot a particular stage at a match, you learn to think tactically. Action shooting is not normally done from a single shooting position, so you have to plan for the next move you’ll make and when you’ll shoot and usually how many shots you’ll make. The skills you learn can be taken from the range into real life. When you visualize your “plan” as far as situational awareness, you would consider how you would move to a place where you could use something as cover.

6. **Meet Friendly and Interesting People:** You will meet some of the most congenial people during

shooting matches. At a match, you are in a squad with other shooters who come from all kinds of backgrounds. And best of all, you meet people from all manner of shooting skill levels, who are more than willing to share hints and helpful tips to make you better at competitive shooting. And what better place than a shooting range to meet and socialize with like-minded people!

Interested in learning more? Join us at our **Introduction to Competitive Shooting Class** on Saturday, April 6th at the BCGC range, (inclement weather date Saturday May 4th).

Practiscore early sign-up link:

<https://practiscore.com/bcgc-introduction-to-competitive-shooting/register>

Additional information is available on the Practiscore sign-up page with more information sent to those that sign-up. Our experienced instructors will be more than happy to answer all your questions. Join us and start your journey into the competitive shooting sports.

For more information on two competitive shooting sports held at the club, please visit the following pages: [IDPA](#) and [Steel Challenge](#).

Keeping the Range Operating

By Gary Zilik, Range Officer

A little over two and a half years ago, I was elected to the BCGC BOD. Times were tough as Covid had brought the country to a halt and that included in-person meetings of the BCGC Board. June 2021 rolled around and our BOD called for an in-person meeting for the sole purpose of electing new board members. I had ambitions; I was elected to the Board and wanted to be the President of BCGC.

Unbeknownst to me, when you are elected to the BOD you don't run for a particular seat. After the elections the Board huddles around and decides who will fill positions. I knew I did not want to be the club's secretary and the president's position was already filled. In the end, I was appointed Range Officer (RO). I could deal with that.

The Bylaws spell out the duty of the RO as follows: The RO, with his Board-approved assistants, shall monitor the physical assets of the range and assist in

the planning and organization for all maintenance and/or improvement projects to the range.

But what does a Range Officer do? I had no clue. The previous year I passed the NRA Range Safety Officer course so I knew how to run a safe firing line, but running a safe firing line is only a small part of the job as I soon found out. I called the previous RO and with his help started a list of what I needed to do.

So the job of the Range Officer is to make sure that the entire range is in good shape. Organizing work days where members help with the workload is one of the tools the Range Officer uses. Members can help by signing up for work days and also submitting suggestions on items that need attention and range improvements. Suggestions can be emailed to myself or any one of the Board Members.

New for this year, work days will be published on the [Schedule of Events](#) found on the BCGC website. The dates still have to be hammered out so watch the events calendar for dates in mid April and the end of June. Approximately two weeks before a scheduled work day, notices will be distributed and members may sign up via Member Planet.

So how do work days work? Membership dues are broken down into two parts; membership and work bonds. The work bond portion is \$150/year and can be offset by volunteering for work days when they are announced. Work day credits are used to offset the cost of the work bond for the following year. One work day (8 hours) offsets \$75 of the work bond while two work days would offset \$150 of the work bond (limited to \$150/year). Work day credits can be earned in a number of ways. Working as a Gatekeeper during the summer, or if you find that rather mundane how about volunteering for a work day project when one is announced. Work day projects revolve around range upkeep and improvement; the range is constantly in need of work.

Work days for range improvement can be physically challenging. A glimpse at some of the more demanding projects for this year: Casting new shooting benches for the short range. This includes leveling and installation. Replacement of railroad ties on the short range. My big toe is proof of the demanding nature of working with OAK railroad ties. Moving of the Jim Starr Long Range gate closer to the Stat house. Figure 2 shows a large work day project on the Short Range.



Figure 2: Progress of Work Days on the Short Range

Members can also fulfill work bond requirements by volunteering for Gatekeeper duty. Serving as a gatekeeper is one of the most important ways of helping the club stay open. The FS requires the range to be open to the public a certain number of days each year which offsets the cost of the required Reclamation Bond. In short, without allowing public shooter access, BCGC would not be able to afford the reclamation bond and would close. The club satisfies this requirement by being open to the public on weekends from Memorial Day to the Last day in October. There are 112 Gatekeeper positions for the 2024 shooting season. Please help by checking out the [Gatekeeper Schedule](#) and volunteering for a fun day of gatekeeping.

Tips for Members

By Al Fisher, Secretary

Do you want to learn more about the BCGC? Do you want to get to know the elected officers of your club? Perhaps you are considering running for a position on the Board. Attend BOD meetings. These are held the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM at the [Aspen Park Community Center](#). Attend, learn, and express your opinions.

As Gary Zilik describes above, work days are an easy way to reduce your annual \$150 work bond. Gatekeeper duty is one way to accomplish this. Check the [Gatekeeper schedule](#) on the BCGC web site and let Dabney Crump know the days you want to work.

For each day a Gatekeeper works, s/he receives one chance in a drawing for a free, new firearm at the January members meeting. At the February 20, 2024 BOD meeting, the Directors decided that a first time Gatekeeper will now receive two chances for the drawing. Subsequent days will earn one chance.

Author Contact Information

All of our authors welcome your questions and comments.

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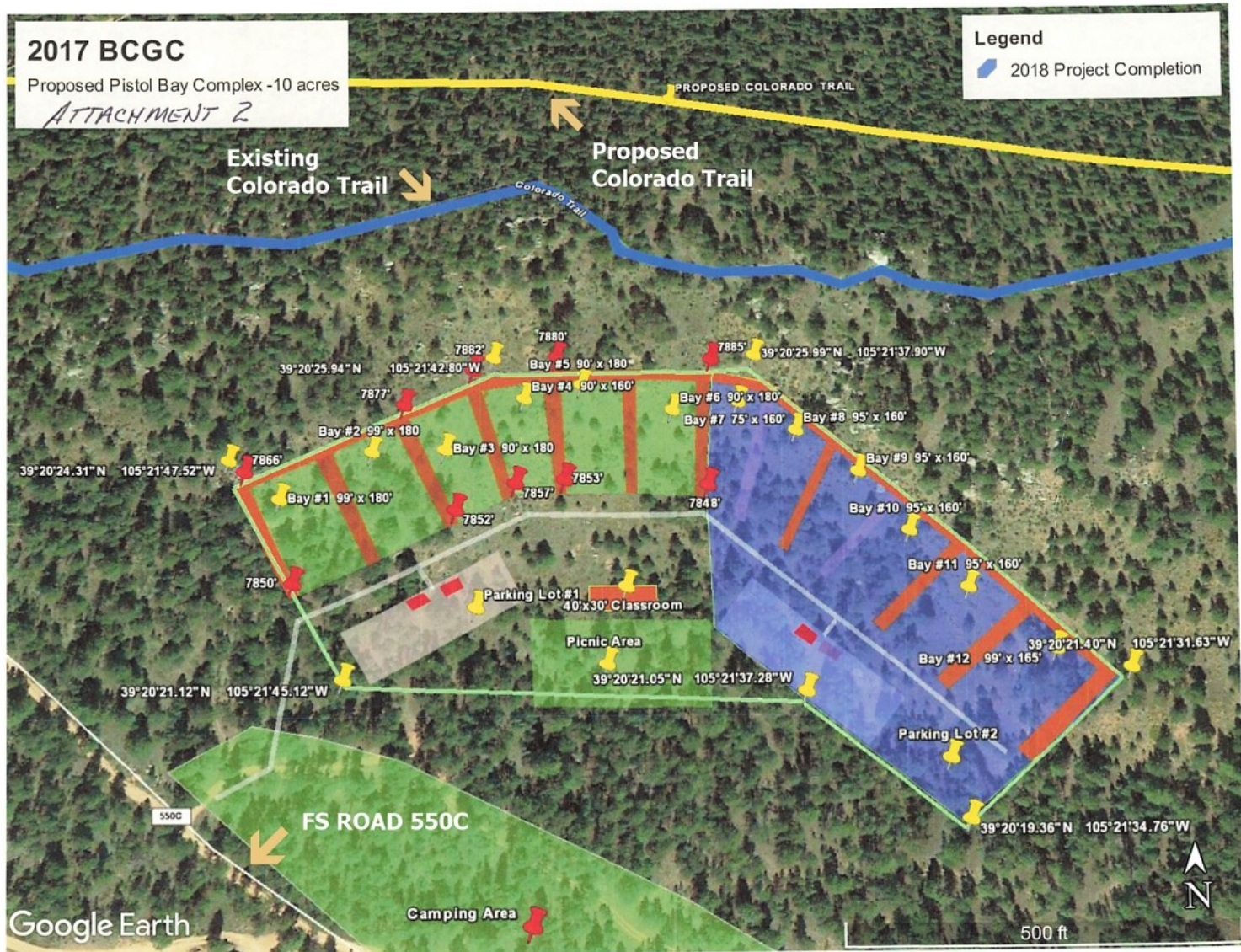


Figure 3: Early Plan for Proposed Pistol Bay Complex