

Jefferson County Planning Commissioners: Testimony at Public Hearing
 5 November 2019

Next Tuesday at Chimacum High School from 6:30-8:30pm, the Planning Commissioners will be hearing public testimony on the draft ordinances to regulate commercial shooting facilities. The Commissioners will continue to deliberate after the hearing and then deliver a series of recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on December 4th.

The current draft ordinances state that commercial shooting facilities will need to apply for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) under the category of “small-scale, recreational and tourist” (SSRT) use. Accordingly, the Planning Commissioners are discussing the possibility of recommending specific or “bright line” regulations that define what small-scale and recreation and tourist mean with respect to shooting ranges—laying down clear rules that minimize the lead, copper, noise, public safety, and other impacts of shooting ranges.

TRC supporters: Please prepare a **3-minute speech and/or hand-in a hard-copy** of your testimony that includes your name and address. Eight possible themes are listed below, but please feel free to come up with your own. The important thing is: **Pick one theme and justify it.** Tell the Commissioners why the bright line you are proposing will help protect the environment and people and support the SSRT designation. It’s not enough to say “gun ranges are noisy” or make other general objections.

One last thing: please remember that **these ordinances impact ALL gun ranges**—not just the one proposed at Tarboo Lake. So make your comments relevant to any gun range anywhere in the county.

Item	Rationale
No military, paramilitary, National Guard, Homeland Security or non-local law enforcement	Conflicts with recreational and tourist designation. Larger units would also conflict with small scale.
Maximum of 10 firing points	Defines small-scale.
8am to 5pm only	Reduce impacts on neighbors (noise and traffic). Consistent with recreational and tourist use, as these populations don’t shoot at night.
Indoor only	Solves all of the problems—environmental and safety—and can be located closer to population centers. Work with WA congressional delegation for funding, and/or BoCC re a bond issue?
No shooting from aircraft	Not tourist, not recreational
List disallowed weapons	Machine guns, mortars, rocket launchers etc. are not recreational or tourist. Our intent is to support hunting and small-scale shooting sports.
Establish noise standard at boundary of maximum 35db	This supports the small-scale criterion and protects neighboring businesses and residences. A named decibel level works better than design criteria, as noise impacts vary with vegetation and topography. 35db is the hum of a refrigerator—it’s noticeable but does not impede enjoyment or activity.
500-yard setback from shorelines (streams and lakes) and wetlands/wetland-buffers	Prevent lead or copper pollution in waterways; protect integrity of public recreation areas for enjoyment by non-shooters; protect wildlife; protect against threat of stray bullets

