

Planning Commission Recommends All New Shooting Ranges be Indoors

The Jefferson County Planning Commission voted 7-0 with 1 abstention at their November 20 meeting to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) that the Jefferson County Sportsman Association range be grandfathered in as Jefferson County's outdoor shooting facility and that any new shooting ranges be built indoors and located in industrial and commercial zones.

Reasons the Planning Commission cited include:

- Indoor ranges are a 21st century solution for safe shooting that imposes few impacts on surrounding communities and minimal risks to the environment;
- Indoor ranges impose fewer costs on local government and applicants for permitting, monitoring and enforcement;
- Indoor ranges eliminate shooting noise complaints;
- Indoor ranges will not encroach on our commercial forests and assure that our forests, farms and fishery- based economy can continue to flourish;
- This is a bold, progressive way to protect the future of Jefferson County and assures all residents have access to gun safety training and target practice.
- Indoor ranges eliminate the possibility of taxpayers having to foot the bill when operators of lead and copper contaminated outdoor ranges abandon their shooting sites;

The Planning Commission will meet again on Monday, November 25 at 5:30 at the Tri Area Community Center to review the revised drafts of the Title 8 and 18 ordinances for consistency and to clean up any conflicts before sending their final recommendations and finding of facts to the County Commissioners in December.

TRC urges everyone to write to the BoCC and encourage our them to adopt the Planning Commission's recommendation that all new shooting ranges be built indoors.