



Why keep gun ranges out of forestlands?

Let us count the ways ...

In commercial and industrial zones:

1. Infrastructure (traffic/parking, water, power, and in some cases sewer) is in place;
2. We prevent scattershot development in forest zones that strains infrastructure and is incompatible with existing uses*;
3. We prevent forest loss and permanent and negative impacts on an important resource base, as well as environmental benefits in carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, and water quality;
4. We make fire prevention efforts, emergency services, operational oversight, and environmental clean-up more efficient, by keeping more firearms out of forestlands;
5. We avoid a slippery slope, with possible appeals to site scrap yards, marijuana growing operations, affordable housing, or other uses in forestlands—all of which are incompatible with the Comprehensive Plan.

Jefferson County has over 1000 acres in commercial and industrial zoning—a number that could be expanded with careful study. **We don't need to sacrifice our forests to give people a safe, well-managed place to train with firearms.**

*Well-trained planners concentrate commercial and industrial activity--they don't scatter warehouses and machine shops among forest parcels. Another way to say this is like with like--indoor gun ranges should be located next to other commercial/industrial uses; forests should be left as productive forests.