

## Requirements for Non-Match Use of the 1000 yd Rifle Range

The objective of this guidance is to ensure those authorized to use the 1000 yd Rifle Range do so in a safe manner that does not create extra work for the next user. The guidance is based on the first 10 years of operation.

Suggestions for improving the Rifle Range are welcome and should be submitted to the current High Power Rifle Committee Chair for followup. The same is true if there is any broken or damaged equipment, or if you just have some question about Rifle Range operations.

### Gates

There are four gates controlling access to the 1000 yd Rifle Range.

North Gate: This is an old BPA access route to the high voltage lines up the hill. Job Corps used this when building the 1000 yd range. This gate is normally only opened once a year to allow the Rattlesnake Ridge Riders to ride through the range as part of their annual chili feed and horse ride.

Highway Gate: This gate is used by the shotgun and primitive range also. It is open for scheduled events and some types of range maintenance. For non-match use of the Rifle Range it should be locked shut unless one of the other ranges needs to have it open.

Canyon Gate: This steel gate is located at the mouth of the canyon. It is open during scheduled matches and normally closed during non-match use to avoid possible traffic should the highway gate be open. When closed for non-match use it does not need to be locked. When the gate is open keep the lock out of the dirt to keep dirt out of the tumblers.

Chain Gate: This gate is at the top of the canyon road to direct traffic coming up the road. It is mostly for scheduled matches. During long range (800, 900, 1000 yd) events it keeps visitors from heading downrange into the path of the bullets. Note that there is a graveled bypass area that allows long range match participants to drive around the gate during pit changes. During medium & short range events the chain gate keeps visitors from wandering around the long range area looking for an event at the other end of the range. For non-match use the chain gate may be left alone, i.e., off to the side near the post. Do not leave the chain lying on the graveled road or the sign that hangs from the chain will be ruined by vehicle traffic.

### Flags

There are three types of flags for the 1000 yd Rifle Range.

United States Flag located near the highway under the power lines. This is raised during match use to welcome shooters. For non-match use it can be raised or left in the mailbox.

Red Range Flags located at 1000 yd, 500 yd, and the target pits.

1000 yd red flag: During a scheduled match the flag at 1000 yd is raised to show that the range is in use. It signals to shotgun ROs leaving for the day that the gate to the highway should be left open. For non-match use this flag must be raised when shooting from the long range positions (800, 900, and 1000 yd). When shooting from medium (600 yd) and short range (100, 200, 300 yd) the flag at 1000 yd can be left in the mailbox. If the flag at 1000 yd is not raised, then a red flag at 500 yd must be raised.

Target pit red flag: This flag must be raised for either scheduled matches or non-match shooting.

Red & White Wind Flags located in mailboxes at the flagpoles. During a scheduled match some or all of these are raised, depending on the event. During non-match use they may be raised according to the preference of the shooters. The red half of the flag is normally flown at the top of the staff with the white or yellow half underneath.

Note: The rope and pulley system has limitations. Do not use excessive downward force on the rope when tying it off. Also, when the flag is removed the lower end of the rope does not need to be attached to the pole. It can be left blowing in the wind.

### **Roads and Parking**

- Do not drive or park off the graveled areas. The flagpole roads are an exception that may be used to put up flags and take them down at the end of the day. If the flagpole road becomes too overgrown it should not be used due to the fire hazard. During wet conditions the flagpole road may be too muddy to use.
- Do not drive on the shooting lines. Traffic up to the shooting benches at 200, 300, and 600 yd is permitted. Also the first and last bench on the 1000 yd line can be driven to. Just don't use the shooting line like a road. It packs the gravel.
- When in the pits do not park behind a target. Bullets will be deflected by the target (especially the wooden parts) and may strike your vehicle. Park at least 30 ft to either side of the targets.

### **Shooting Lines**

- Rifles with muzzle brakes may launch gravel back toward shooters and spectators when fired close to the ground. A tarp or piece of carpet should be placed on the ground under the muzzle when shooting prone.
- Stakes or nails may be used to hold down ground cover or sun shades. No digging holes.
- Again, do not drive on the shooting lines.

### **Line-to-Pit Communication**

- Commercially available radios work well, but are not required for non-match use. Cell phones are not loud enough to be heard through typical hearing protection.
- Without radios the people in the target pits must remain on the concrete walkway until the people who are shooting return to the pits.
- People in the pits may signal a cease fire by pulling the targets down. People who are shooting should then make the line safe and find out why.

### **Ammunition**

- Bullets that drop more than 10 inches per 8 feet of horizontal travel when they reach the pits are prohibited because they may strike the upper metal bar on the target carrier. If the bullets are supersonic at the pits they are okay.
- Black powder cartridges are not permitted at distances greater than 600 yd unless the load has been tested using the double target arrangement. Every black powder load used beyond 600 yd must be tested to determine whether it is safe in the pits.
- Bullet drop at the target can be measured with a double target arrangement and special cases authorized. The following subsonic rounds have been tested at 300 yd and are known to be safe: .45 ACP (230 gr, 900 fps at muzzle) and .22LR high velocity.
- To arrange load testing, contact the High Power Rifle Committee Chair.
- Armor piercing, incendiary, tracer ammo is prohibited due to the fire hazard most of the year.

### **Targets**

All targets for the 1000 yd Rifle Range are stored in the two conex containers in the target pits. The large conex is on the right side while the small conex is on the left side. Clay pigeons, glass targets, steel targets, targets that leave debris, and other non-approved targets (for

example, rocks or wildlife) are prohibited on the 1000 yd range just as they are at the Rose Range.

Large Conex: Match targets for NRA and FCSA events are stored here. In addition are the extra spotters, pasters, and value markers used in most events. Extra hardware for the target carriers and parts for the flagpoles are stored on the shelves. Spare flags are stored in this container also. The targets in this container are not intended for non-match use except by special permission of the appropriate match director.

Small Conex: This container is divided into two parts. The locked portion stores targets used for Rimfire and Vintage Military Rifle matches in addition to a supply of spotters, pasters, and value markers. The targets for match use can only be used by special permission of the appropriate match director.

The entry area of the small conex has the targets for non-match use. There is an assortment of sizes. Other paper targets may be attached to the supplied frames using wallpaper paste, tape, staples, or the glue in the aerosol can on the desk. If staples are used, they must be removed by the end of the day. Staples interfere with target maintenance. Finally, don't mount targets so bullets passing through them will hit the wooden uprights on the target carrier.

To avoid being hit by the counterweight, always stand on the walkway when unhooking and hooking the chain. If you stand under the counterweight you are asking for trouble.

### **Non-Match Procedure**

These are the important steps. Particular cases may vary.

1. At the highway gate: If the highway gate is open then drive on through. If it is closed then be sure to close it before heading up to the canyon gate. Also, look up to see if the 1000 yd flag is raised. If it is then someone is shooting up there, possibly from 1000 yd. Plan on going back to 1000 yd (turn left at the top of the canyon).
2. At the canyon gate: Unlock the canyon gate and close it behind you. If it is already unlocked there is likely someone up there already so be alert. If the canyon gate is open then leave it open.
3. At the top of the canyon: Turn left if someone is shooting from the long range side or you need to put up the 1000 yd flag.
4. At the 500 yd flagpole: Be sure to raise the flag at 500 yd if you did not raise the flag at 1000 yd.
5. Wind flags: Raise any you'd like to have up.
6. Target pits: Raise the red flag nearest the pits.
7. Small conex: Latch open the container door. Fill out the sign in sheet. Deposit money in the can hanging on the wall. Cost is \$1 for every shooter. If a shooter is not a member of the TCSA there is also a \$5 non-member fee, unless this was already paid at another range.
8. Select a target and mount it on the target carriers. If it is a breezy day be sure to have two people carry each target for better control.
9. Decide how to handle line-to-pit communication if there are no radios. Make sure people in the pits have hearing protection.
10. Have fun shooting!
11. Latch the target carrier down using the chain. Then take the target back to the small conex and make sure it is fit for the next shooter.
12. Close the small conex. Take down all the flags that were raised.
13. Make sure the canyon gate is locked when you leave.
14. Make sure the highway gate is locked when you leave - unless it is already open.

### **Adjoining Property**

- The Hanford Reach National Monument lies due north of the range. There is a highway about 1000 yd north of impact mound. Firearms may be discharged even while there is traffic on this highway. Just be sure you are on target.
- Those who manage the Hanford Reach may hire helicopters for aerial spraying of the vegetation. If a helicopter is flying low on the other side of the impact mound, don't be shooting. In fact, the pilot may land and ask you not to shoot.
- The land over the west boundary belongs to the State of Washington and is accessible by the public. Be aware that there may be hunters, horse riders, or hikers just over the fence.
- Bonneville Power Administration has a right of way to access their power lines. They may close the Rifle Range during power line work.

### **Historical Notes**

Most of the earth work at the 1000 yd Rifle Range was carried out by Job Corps from August 1995 to August 1997. Job Corps also built the second road along the north fence, the road up the canyon, and the parking area and trap pads at the shotgun range. Planning and other support work was carried out by club volunteers.

In June & July 1999 the concrete walkway in the target pits was poured. In August the target carriers were bolted in place. They were constructed at the Walla Walla penitentiary. In October the large conex was delivered to the range. The target carriers as well as parts of the conex were visible from the 200 yd line, so soil was pushed forward to raise the soil and protect equipment from stray bullets.

In November 1999 considerable effort was made to prepare the range for the first scheduled match. Wooden uprights and steel counterweights were installed on the target carriers, 6 ft by 6 ft target frames were built. Flag pole locations were marked for later construction. The very first High Power Committee meeting was held. Bylaws were adopted at this meeting.

During December and January ammo cans were painted and stocked. Numbered bricks were placed on the shooting lines. Cardboard was purchased and attached to the frames. The dirt mound in front of the targets was smoothed and leveled by hand. Lots of weeds were removed.

Volunteers who put in many hours getting the 1000 yd range ready for competition included Bob Gudgel, Lyle Eckman, Greg Prior, James Warden, Curtis Smith, Matt Donnelly, Paul Rittmann, Cory Franklin, Carl Hatfield, Jerry Wehr, and Warren Kropf.

The first rifle match held on the 1000 yd range was the Korean War Memorial in February of 2000. At that time the firing lines and parking areas were bare dirt, and there were no gates or wind flags. The TCSA Board required all traffic to and from the Rifle Range to use the north road, having abandoned the canyon road constructed by Job Corps.

In March 2000 two mobile homes were donated to the TCSA. One was placed near the current location of the water tank on the 1000 yd range. The other was placed along the shortcut road near the shotgun range. In April 2000, the holes for the flagpoles were dug. The holes were filled with concrete and flagpoles erected later that year.

In April 2001 gravel was spread on the shooting lines. During 2001 the Board reconsidered their requirement to only enter the range using the north road. Various ROs had complained about safety issues after entering the target pits from the north road while people were shooting. In December 2001 the mobile home was destroyed by high wind. In March 2002 the mobile home debris was collected in a dumpster and hauled away. In early 2002 the 100 yd line was added to the range. Considerable hand smoothing was carried out to bring it to its present appearance. In June 2002 the canyon road was first graveled.