

**USERY MOUNTAIN SHOOTING RANGE**  
**FIVE-YEAR MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**2009-2014**

**PART I – Background:**

The Rio Salado Sportsman's Club, Inc. (RSSC) currently operates the Usery Mountain Shooting Range, and has done so since 1971. Previously, the Mesa Gun Club operated the range between 1952 and 1971. The range is located on approximately 180 acres of land north of and adjacent to Usery Pass Road. The RSSC has about 3000 individual and family members, and hosted over 70,000 members of the shooting public within the last twelve months. This Five Year Development Plan is required by the terms of the lease between the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and the Rio Salado Sportsman's Club, Inc... The purpose of the plan is to provide an overall view toward enhancing range facilities and operations to provide a safer, more enjoyable shooting experience for the public.

**PART II – Existing Facilities:**

Currently, the Usery Mountain Shooting Range has the following facilities:

1. A main (public) shooting range with 36 tables and firing lanes, with target stands at 25, 50, and 100 yards. This range is covered, and has a concrete pad, concrete block tables, and targets available. Additionally, there are eight (8) target stands at 200 yards, and four (4) target stands at 300 yards. Three manual clay pigeon throwers are located at the left end for shotgun shooters to use. This range is supervised by Range Masters who provide shooter education in safe gun handling as well as ensuring all safety rules are followed. Handicap parking is available and the range is handicap accessible.
2. A forty-position Small Bore Range (110 yards in depth) with cover, concrete pad, retaining wall, stairs, and handicap access is situated at the east side of the range area. This range was improved in 2002-04, and now provides a facility for use by seven different shooting disciplines. Note: This range is used extensively in providing Hunter-Safety education to the public, especially junior shooters.
3. A twelve-target High Power Rifle Range with positions at 200, 300, and 500 yards.
4. A High Power Rifle Silhouette Range with target positions at 200, 300, 385, and 500 meters. Note: The majority of the East Valley Police Departments use this range to provide SWAT Team tactical training. More than 20 area Police Departments and Law Enforcement groups use the facilities at the Usery Mountain Shooting Range for their training programs.
5. There are four Pistol Bays that are used for both Practical Pistol and Cowboy Action shooting matches. A building combining a classroom, maintenance bay and statistical office support these activities.

6. An Activity Center is located across from the west end of the Small Bore Range. The Center includes an office for Range Manager and the Club Administrative Assistant. A main room is used for meetings and shooting safety classes.
7. The Range Safety Officers trailer and restrooms are located at the Main Range. All range restrooms are handicap accessible.
8. A gunsmith shop, restrooms, a Junior Classroom, the Range Manager's residence and a small maintenance support facility are located in the area near the Activity Center.
9. Two new additions to the Range are Training Bay 1 and Training Bay 2. These are 25 yard pistol training bays and are reserved for law enforcement and CCW class instruction. This relieves joint use of the four Practical Pistol Bays.
10. A 16 station Sporting Clays Course has recently been completed and has been used by more than 1100 shooters in the year that it has been in operation. The Club is now a member of the Scholastic Clay Target Program.
11. The new Range Safety Office has been completed and is in use. The old office trailer has been removed and additional parking spaces are available.

### PART III – Description of the Master Plan:

The Master Development Plan provides for the infrastructure to support present activities, as well as expanded or new facilities to cover planned future activities. Aerial photograph maps are attached to provide an overall graphic representation of both current and planned enhancements. The first photomap shows the range as it currently exists. The second photomap shows the range with planned major projects only. This plan is divided into three parts. These are: 1) Safety Enhancements, 2) Infrastructure Improvements (designed either to maintain current facilities and equipment, or to enhance shooter convenience and comfort), and 3) New Range Facilities. Planned improvements are listed according to these categories. Improvements are divided into major or minor projects. The arbitrary dividing line between major and minor is determined by cost. Anything less than \$7,500 is considered minor. Major projects and improvements are above that figure.

### PART IV – Master Plan:

#### A. Safety:

1. Safety is paramount at the Utery Mountain Shooting Range. Game and Fish personnel conducted a Safety Inspection of the facility on March 13, 2007 and provided a list of safety improvements. Essentially, the four Practical Pistol Bays have had their impact berms raised to 20 + feet per NRA and Arizona Game and Fish Department requirements.
2. The berms at the Small Bore Range have been improved. Specifically, the Small Bore Range has dirt safety berms on the north (down range), west and east sides. These berms now meet the NRA requirements.
3. Shooters using the Pistol Training Bays do not always enter deep enough into the bays to prevent ricochets from occurring. Signs need to be installed in each bay. Any

4. The Club plans to install a communications system between the Range Master's office and all ranges to be used in emergencies. Cost is unknown, but this is considered a minor project.

#### B. INFRASTRUCTURE:

1. The Main Range has been improved over the 2005-2009 period. There are now 36 covered benches and three (3) manual clay bird throwers.
2. Renew or replace range facilities and equipment. This project, now completed, includes: recovering the concrete shooting benches on the Main Range, rebuild all worn-out rifle racks, stools, tables, all signs have been replaced throughout the range and along the range boundaries and the metal cover has been extended to provide more protection from the sun and rain.
3. The area around the Activity Center has been graded to increase the parking spaces. Signs, ramps and concrete parking dividers have been installed to clearly improve handicap accommodations.
4. It is proposed to fill in some of the dead-ended washes that have been archeologically cleared to increase the parking area.

#### C. NEW RANGE FACILITIES:

These are projects needed to either provide better facilities to maintain and operate the range, or to provide shooters new or improved shooting opportunities. Refer to attached aerial photograph, page 5.

1. Maintenance Facility: The Club has recently completed a 30 x 80 foot steel building to the East of the Gunsmith Shop. This will be used to store the front-end loader, pick-up trucks etc. There are also provisions for work shop equipment, welder, etc.
2. 10 Meter Air Rifle Range:  
A 10 meter Air Rifle Range will be installed in the Maintenance Building to be used in the evening thereby relocating it from the Activity Center.
3. Five Stand Sporting Clays Field:  
There has been an increased demand for shot gun facilities in the East valley because of the closure of the Red Mountain Trap and Skeet Range. Therefore the Club has constructed a Five Stand Sporting Clays field at the west end of the present Sporting Clays Facility. It will be handicap accessible for those shooters who are not able to traverse the regular field. There will also be illumination so that evening operation will be available.
4. Classroom Complex:  
Two classrooms or multi-purpose buildings located just south of the main road to the Upper Range. This will include adequate parking for the participants.

5. Range Office Expansion:

The present size Range Office is frequently congested with shooters who want memberships, information and Sporting Clays admission. It is proposed to make the present window into an access door way, construct an enclosure on the present porch and increase the office size by a 15 feet x 15 feet addition.

6. Main Range Expansion:

There has been a considerable increase in the shooting public over the past 10 years. This has caused 2 – 3 hour waiting times on the weekend on the Main Range and during the winter months there are many people waiting on week days also.

It is proposed to move the left hand (South-West) Berm 60 feet and thereby adding 10 benches to the Main Range's present total of 36 benches. A pad and cover will also be constructed.

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- LEGEND**
- 1. Maintenance Facility**
  - 2. Air Rifle Range**
  - 3. 5- Stand Sporting Clays**
  - 4. Classroom Complex**
  - 5. Range Office Expansion**
  - 6. Main Range Expansion**



**USERY MOUNTAIN SHOOTING RANGE MASTER PLAN**