

..... (Your mailing address)
..... (Your city/state/zip
..... (Date)

TO:
c/o Elbert County Government
215 Comanche Street
P.O. Box 7
Kiowa, CO 80117

Subject: Please Support Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch

I urge you to support the Denver Area Council, Boy Scouts of America's application for a Temporary Special Use Permit for activities at Peaceful Valley Ranch, specifically as it relates to the continued use of the historic shooting ranges also known as the Travis Shooting Sports Facility. The Boy Scouts is committed to teaching men and women to become leaders of tomorrow. Part of that lesson includes teaching these young people new experiences. The shooting sports ranges at Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch provide one such activity, and teaches kids safety and responsibility.

Since 1965, the Scouts have been committed to protecting and sustaining the environment at Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch and the surrounding area. This commitment is reinforced by the Leave No Trace code of outdoor ethics, which the Scouts integrate into all their activities. The shooting ranges are environmentally sound, and strictly controlled to ensure a safe venue for participants, the Scouts, visitors and area residents.

The Scouts' application must be reviewed based on following the laws of Elbert County and the State of Colorado. There are a few residents who are voicing their opposition to the Scouting mission. There are many more members of the public who do not share their view. I support the Scouts' right to use whatever legal activity they believe furthers their mission and helps to support their great work.

The Scout Ranch is a vital contributor to the community and to the economy of Elbert County. The Scouts consistently patronize local businesses to supply and support the Ranch, and visitors bring significant revenue to local businesses and positive exposure to Elbert County.

The Scouts have been and continue to be a good neighbor in Elbert County. I strongly urge you to support generations of Scouts who have benefited, and will benefit, from the diverse experiences and lessons taught by the Scouts at Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch, including those taught at the shooting sports ranges.

Sincerely,

.....
(Signature)

PEACEFUL VALLEY SCOUT RANCH – HISTORIC RIFLE AND SHOTGUN SHOOTING RANGE

What is the status of the currently pending Temporary Special Use Permit Application for the historic range (a.k.a. Travis Shooting Sports Facility)?

- On June 2, 2008, the Scouts submitted a Temporary Special Use Permit application to Elbert County, seeking continued use of the historic shooting ranges, also known as the Travis Shooting Sports Facility, for traditional Scouting use only, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, for the balance of the 2008 summer camping season, which ends on August 9, 2008.
- The bulk of the facilities at these ranges have been in use by the Scouts since the early 1960's.
- In order to be good neighbors and cooperate with the County, the Scouts have committed that they will not conduct any shooting operations on the historical range, unless and until this permit is approved, notwithstanding the Scouts' position that the majority of the range is grandfathered under the County's regulations. Also, the Scouts pending Special Use Permit Application for the newly added Sporting Clays Course cannot be processed until provision is made for permitting of the historic shooting ranges.
- In addition, the Scouts will explore alternative sites within the Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch for both the historic range and the Sporting Clays Range, and, assuming a suitable alternative site can be located, will submit an application for a permanent special use application for both ranges by July 25, 2008.
- Your comments may be sent to the Planning Director, Richard Miller, and/or to the Planning Commissioners and/or County Commissioners of Elbert County. Mail can be sent to:

Elbert County Government, 215 Comanche Street, PO Box 7, Kiowa, CO 80117
Main Phone: 303-621-2341; Main Fax: 303-621-2343

Emails:

Richard Miller, Elbert County Planning Director	richard.miller@elbertcounty-co.gov
Hope Goetz, Elbert County Commissioner	hope.goetz@elbertcounty-co.gov
John Metli, Elbert County Commissioner	john.metli@elbertcounty-co.gov
Suzie Graeff, Elbert County Commissioner	suzie.graeff@elbertcounty-co.gov

- New locations under consideration are in the central part of camp, far away from the neighbors who are complaining about current shooting activities.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hear the Scouts application in an open hearing on June 25th, at 1:00 p.m. in their hearing room at 215 Comanche Street in Kiowa.
- The Scouts have adopted extensive safety precautions and have actively taken all necessary and prudent steps to ensure the safety of the participants, the Scouts, visitors and area residents.
- Since 1965, the Scouts have been committed to protecting and sustaining the environment at Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch and the surrounding area. Also since 1965, the Scouts have engaged in shooting sports at the Ranch.

PEACEFUL VALLEY SCOUT RANCH – HISTORIC RIFLE AND SHOTGUN SHOOTING RANGE

What is the status of the permanent Special Use Permit Application for the Sporting Clays Range?

- County staff is still reviewing the application, and has requested additional information. The Scouts are complying with the request. County staff has not yet issued a staff report or recommendation. It is anticipated that this application may be combined with and heard at the same time as a permanent special use application for the historic ranges, once it is submitted.

What is the status of the lawsuit against the Scouts by a few area residents?

- Plaintiffs are landowners in Elbert County located near the Scout Ranch. Plaintiffs allege that sporting clays fundraising events held at the Scout Ranch are illegal, because they generate excessive noise and cause lead contamination. Plaintiffs seek a declaratory judgment that the shooting events are illegal, and allege additional claims for public nuisance, private nuisance, and civil conspiracy.
- The Elbert County District Court issued an order on the Defendants' motion to dismiss, dismissing the first of the Plaintiffs' claims seeking a declaratory judgment.
- The Scouts intend to vigorously defend against this lawsuit and preserve their right to operate the Peaceful Valley Ranch as they have since 1965, including the longstanding tradition of shooting sports, however the Scouts are willing to explore alternative locations for shooting sports ranges on their property providing that regulatory approval from Elbert County can be secured.

What is the impact of the Scout Ranch on the economy of Elbert County?

- The Scout Ranch provides significant positive economic impact on the economy of Elbert County with more than 10,000 visitors and Scouts traveling to the Ranch each year.
- The Scout Ranch has three full-time employees plus more than 170 seasonal employees.
- Local vendors such as NAPA Auto Parts, Integrity Auto Repair, Big R, Safeway, Elbert Mini-Mart, as well as many others, benefit from year-round purchases made by the Scout Ranch.

Other relevant facts:

- Expansion of Use: The Scouts have acknowledged that some of their activities at the Scout Ranch may require additional permitting. The Scouts are working with the County and the neighbors to explore alternative sites within the Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch for both the historic range and the Sporting Clays Range, and, assuming a suitable alternative site can be located, will submit an application for a permanent special use application for both ranges by July 25, 2008.