

Wildlife Restoration/Hunter Education Advisory Team



Advisory 2020-020: Mobile Public Target Ranges, Eligibility for WSFR Funding

September 23, 2020

May Wildlife Restoration funds be used to purchase goods and services to establish, operate, and maintain a mobile public target range?

Term: *Public target range* means a specific location that—(A) is identified by a governmental agency for recreational shooting; (B) is open to the public; (C) may be supervised; and (D) may accommodate archery or rifle, pistol, or shotgun shooting. (16 U.S.C. 669a(4))

Discussion: Recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R3) activities have the objective to create new participants or increase participation rates of current or lapsed outdoor recreationists. A mobile public target range has the potential to more widely engage the public, for example, in more rural areas where population density does not support a traditional, stationary public target range. A mobile public target range can reach public audiences at Wildlife Management Areas and other events where hunting and recreational shooting sports activities align with the R3 national movement and State-specific plans.

Advisory: The purpose of the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act (P. Law 116-17) is to “facilitate the construction and expansion of public target ranges, including ranges on Federal land managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.” The Act does not specify that a range must be limited to stationary facilities. Location and/or mobility of a public target range is not a limiting factor or a requirement for funding. Therefore, Wildlife Restoration funds that are used to purchase goods and services to establish, operate, and maintain a mobile public target range which result in new or expanded range facilities clearly meet the purpose of the Act and are considered eligible using funds at:

- 16 U.S.C. 669c(b) (Traditional Wildlife Restoration) for the up to 10% that can be allocated to be combined with Enhanced Hunter Education funds for public target ranges (90/10/5)
- 16 U.S.C. 669c(c) (Basic Hunter Education or R3) (90/10/5 or 75/25)
- 16 U.S.C. 669h-1 (Enhanced Hunter Education/R3) (90/10/5 or 75/25)