

CASE STUDY:

BUILDING / ENHANCING SHOOTING RANGES WITH PR EXCISE TAX FUNDS



Ohio: Delaware Shooting Range and Education Center (DSREC)

State Agency: Ohio Division of Wildlife

Project/Range Name: Delaware Shooting Range and Education Center (DSREC)

Location: 1110 State Route 229, Ashley, OH 43003

Contact Information: Matt Neumeier, Shooting Range, Training, and Education Supervisor, Ohio Division of Wildlife. matt.neumeier@dnr.ohio.gov (740) 287-4948

Range Website: <https://ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/delaware-wildlife-area-shooting-range>

Range Videos:

About: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JPTs-ic8fQ&t=1s>

NonTypical Recruitment: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNks7DfHeHM&t=768s>

Project Type: The Delaware Shooting Range and Education Center was a new range development that replaced a small existing range.

Project Timeline: The DSREC initiated in 2017 and was completed December of 2020.

Range Usage: The Delaware Shooting Range and Education Center is designed to accommodate rifle, handgun, shotgun and archery shooting.

Number of Shooting Lanes/Fields- The DSREC offers 90 shooting lanes from 7 yards to 100 yards in 3 separate ranges. 36 handgun only, 24 multi use handgun/rifle, 30 bench rest/rifle.

The total number available for each firearm platform is listed below.

Rifle - 54

Handgun- 60

Shotgun- 5 (Shooting line with 5 manual throwers)

For Archery, the DSREC offers 3 separate ranges.

10 static Lanes from 10-100 yard

ADA compliant range with accessible raised platform and 6 accessible targets from 15-30 yards.

16 target walkthrough range with targets from 10 – 60 yards.

Intended Users: The intended users of the Delaware Shooting Range and Education Center are hunters, target shooters and members of the Law Enforcement community. The facility also hosts education classes to teach hunters education. Further they offer partnership range time to groups like 4H, the Boy Scouts and NGO events.

How is the Range Staffed: The DSREC is staffed and managed by full and/or part time Ohio Division of Wildlife personnel.

Funding Sources: The DSREC was funded by both Ohio State funds and PR Federal grant money.

Actual Time to Completion: Approximately three years.

Biggest Obstacles: The Range is located on land that is owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and is in a long-term lease. The range replaced a long-term smaller range on the same property but outside of the original footprint. Working with a second government agency proved difficult and created unfamiliar hurdles during the decommissioning of the old range. Decommissioning and cleaning up of the old range was expensive and time consuming.

How Were Those Obstacles Overcome? Regular communication with USACE and compliance to mutually agreed upon standards of cleaning the old range. Environmental consultants were hired to oversee and complete the cleanup.

What Portion of the Project Took More Time than Expected? The processes that took the most time included securing the proper permits, complying with environmental regulations and cleaning up of the old range.

What Range Development Resources Were Most Helpful: The team at DSREC hired a range consultant, the late Clark Vargas to help in design of the range. Clark was able to use his experience to help us decide on size and design based on his experience. His design focus was the [NRA range source book](#) and the designs within it.

What Information/Knowledge Do You Know Now That You Wish Knew Earlier:

The staff at the DSREC wished they knew to focus on access for lead reclamation. Furthermore, in hindsight, they wished they had a customer management system in place before opening. And finally, they wished they would have spent more time consulting with public and private range operators to learn about the nuances of day-to-day range operation.

What Additional Resources Would Have Made the Task Easier/Cheaper/Quicker:

The staff at the DSREC wished there was a standard cookie cutter design for ranges that could have been used to cut down on design costs and time. Further they suggested the

creation of a group of public range operators cohort to consult. Another event that would be beneficial would be a national public shooting range operations summit or conference.

For additional information on Ohio shooting ranges, visit: [Public Shooting Ranges & Buy Permits | Ohio Department of Natural Resources \(ohiodnr.gov\)](https://ohiodnr.gov/resources/public-shooting-ranges)

