



# Colorado

## P-R Funding Summary

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

A few state fish and wildlife agencies use a portion of their federal Pittman-Robertson (P-R) Act funding to make grants to nonprofit organizations or local governments for shooting range projects.

To help Izaak Walton League chapters capitalize on this funding opportunity, we have researched and developed the series of P-R Funding Summaries detailing grant programs offered in states where the League has a significant presence.

*Note: This information is subject to change. Checking with the state contact is always the best way to stay up-to-date.*

### **Information, Process, Regulations**

<http://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Hunting/ShootingRanges/SRDGGuidelines.pdf>

### **Relevant Web Links With Application**

Shooting Range Development Grant:

<http://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/ShootingRangeGrants.aspx>

Small Shooting Range Grant:

<http://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/RangeMaintenanceGrants.aspx>

### **Eligible Grant Recipients**

- County and local governments, existing shooting ranges, recreational shooting organizations, police departments, educational groups, park and recreation departments, archery clubs, landowners, school districts, and others.
- Other entities that are not listed may apply as well if approved. Contact the state agency representative to find out.

## **Eligible Projects**

- Project elements that can be supported through the Shooting Range Development Grant (SRDG) Program grants include berms, shooting benches, target holders, storage areas, fencing, restrooms, parking areas, access roads, shade covers, and other capital improvements that are directly linked to providing a recreational shooting opportunity.
- For projects involving grants of \$5,000 or less, project sponsors should apply through the Small Shooting Range Grant (SSRG) program, which emphasizes smaller upgrades to existing shooting ranges and has separate guidelines and funding cycles. Approximately five projects are selected annually. Examples of eligible projects for this grant include: targets, benches, shelters, storage, and parking lot and access road improvements. The state agency encourages potential applicants to contact their local Hunter Education Office to discuss other creative ideas if applicants are interested in proposing a project other than the ones described above.

## **Ineligible Projects**

- Ranges limited solely and exclusively to private membership use are not eligible for SRDG grants. However, private entities may still apply if they fulfill the “Public Use Requirements” listed below.
- The SRDG Program will not approve grants for general operating expenses, promotional or advertising activities, improvements considered not directly linked to the recreational shooting opportunity, ammunition, expendable items (e.g. targets) or improvements considered in excess of basic facilities required for the range.

## **Grant Amounts**

- For the SRDG, there is no limit on how much a single applicant can apply for. For context when considering a large grant application, the state awarded \$500,000 in TOTAL grants in 2016. It is also important to note that total available grant funding changes every year.
- For the SSRG, project budgets may range from \$500 to \$5,000.
- Both grants are paid out as a reimbursement for expenses incurred. No advance payments are made

## **Public Use Requirements**

- A range receiving funding must be open to the general public at convenient and reasonable times. Small fees may be charged for public use of a SRDG-supported range, but they should be reasonable and provide a good value to recreational shooters.
- Ranges typically also allow access for hunter education training. In addition, some ranges also provide access for introduction and skills development course through programs run by organizations such as 4-H, the Boy Scouts and the NRA. Although this type of access is not required as a condition of grant approval, it may improve the ranking of the application in comparison to applications without this component.
- It is also possible that additional public use requirements could apply especially as grant amounts increase. If considering an application for a large grant, it is advisable to contact the grant administrator to discuss your project in detail.

## **Conditions That Apply To Project After Completion**

After grants are awarded and projects are completed, certain conditions continue to apply to range operations and grant recipients, including:

- For the next 20 years, ranges must continue to operate under similar public access conditions as those described in the grant application.
- Changing management is allowed, changing accessibility to the public is not.
- Grant recipients are required to provide annual reports to the state agency, including about the condition of improvements funded through the grant.
- Range will be subject to periodic spot checks by state agency personnel.

## **Matching Funds Requirements**

To be eligible for all grants an applicant must cover a portion of the total cost of the project. The applicant's portion is generally referred to as "match."

- Applicant match must cover at least 25% of the total project cost. Matching funds cannot come from Colorado Parks and Wildlife related sources (i.e. license funds, GOCO wildlife quadrant funds). In some cases, federal-sourced funds might not be eligible for use as match. Examples of eligible applicant match include: local government funds, volunteer time, donated professional services, donated materials, foundation grants, and private donations.
- For example: a grant will cover \$7,500 of a \$10,000 project.

## **Application Process and Requirements**

When submitting applications for either grant, applicants must include:

- Filled out application (Available on site under FULL APPLICATION)
- “Before” photos of project area
- Plans for project
- IRS Form W-9

## **Application Schedule**

- The schedule for submitting applications changes yearly. Contact state agency staff or check the website for deadlines.

## **Application Review Process**

- State agency staff conducts an internal review of proposals to ensure they meet basic requirements (i.e., open to the public, reasonable fees if applicable).
- Applications are also evaluated by a review panel comprised largely of outside representatives of organizations involved with recreational shooting or hunting. Applicants make presentations before this panel and field questions from it.

## **Additional Information**

Projects for firearms shooting ranges have to meet requirements that do not apply to archery projects, including lead mitigation and noise regulations. Contact state agency staff for additional information on these requirements.

## **Staff Contact Information**

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