

Estes Park Gun & Archery Club

Trap Range Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Version: July 10, 2022

Approved by the EPGAC Board of Directors on July 11, 2022

Distribution: All members and participating agencies

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Use of the Trap Range

1. Definitions:

a. Trap Range. The area of the EPGAC outdoor range formerly used for trap shooting. Current uses are (1) long distance rifle shooting at 200 and 300 yards and (2) tactical shooting. For safety reasons, these two uses are mutually exclusive.

b. Tactical Range. The area of the Trap Range with a man-made backstop and plywood target stands. Shotguns may only be used at this location, to the left of the plywood target stands.

c. Long Rifle Range. The area of the Trap Range used for 200 yard and 300 yard rifle shooting. This area consists of two seated and one prone shooting stations for 200 yard and one seated and one combined seated/prone shooting stations for 300 yard.

d. Rope. An orange and yellow reflective rope used to prevent vehicle traffic on the Trap Range and to indicate the Long Rifle Range is in use.

e. Red Flag. A 3' x 5' flag stored in a marked 3" diameter PVC pipe and used to indicate the Long Rifle Range **OR** the Tactical Range are in use.

f. Flag Pole. A telescoping flag pole located behind the two 200 yard shooting positions.

2. Securing the Range. The Trap Range can be in one of four states which are mutually exclusive. I.e., there is **NEVER SIMULTANEOUS USE** of the Trap Range for long range rifle, tactical or range maintenance. These are the four states:

a. Trap Range Open, Not in Use. This is the normal default state of the Trap Range. Red Flag is **NOT** flying, Rope is pulled parallel to the roadway allowing vehicles to enter the Trap Range. Unless the Trap Range is reserved (see calendar on the club web site), members may use it in accordance with this SOP.

b. Trap Range Closed. Red Flag is **NOT** flying, Rope is pulled across the entrance to prevent vehicle traffic and "Range Closed" sign is hanging from the rope. The "Range Closed" sign is kept in the Trap Range Shed. Only authorized personnel are allowed to close the Trap Range.

c. Tactical Range In Use. Red Flag is **FLYING**, Rope is pulled parallel to the roadway, allowing vehicles to enter the Trap Range. Long Rifle Range is **CLOSED**.

d. Long Rifle Range in Use. Red Flag is **FLYING**, Rope is pulled across the entrance to prevent vehicle traffic. Tactical Range is **CLOSED**.

3. Going Down Range. **PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES** including when the Trap Range is not in use. There are two exceptions: When the Trap Range is closed, the "Range Closed" sign is posted and maintenance/repair is scheduled **by authorized personnel only**. The other exception is when a group with pre-approval of the Range Supervisor is using the Long Rifle Range supervised by a Range Safety Officer (RSO) who may then send personnel downrange while the RSO stays behind to monitor the Range. When authorized to be down range, personnel may paint targets with spray paint (provided). **DO NOT paint the lens of the LED hit indicator.**

4. Procedure for Use of the Tactical Range. Obey all normal firearm safety rules, obey all posted signs and also do the following (see accompanying photos):

a. Ensure the Long Rifle Range is not in use before entering the Trap Range. Note the shooting stations to the left as you enter the Trap Range and make certain they are unoccupied.

b. If not already done so, pull the Rope parallel to the roadway.

c. Remove the Red Flag from the PVC pipe and raise it on the telescoping Flag Pole. To raise the Flag Pole, extend each section upward until it stops, turn the pipe counter-clockwise (viewed from above) until it stops and lower into the interior slot (not visible).

d. When leaving, lower the Flag Pole, remove the Flag and stow the Flag in the PVC pipe.

5. Procedure for Use of the Long Rifle Range (200 yard and 300 yard). Obey all normal firearm safety rules, obey all posted signs and also do the following (see accompanying photos):

a. Ensure the Tactical Range is not in use before entering the Trap Range. If the Tactical Range is in use, **YOU MAY NOT USE** the Long Rifle Range at either distance.

b. Pull the Rope across the vehicle entrance and secure it to the stand. Vehicles are **NOT ALLOWED** on the Trap Range when the Long Rifle Range is in use.

c. Remove the Red Flag from the PVC pipe and raise it on the telescoping Flag Pole. To raise the Flag Pole, extend each section upward until it stops, turn the pipe counter-clockwise (viewed from above) until it stops and lower into the interior slot (not visible).

d. When leaving, lower the Flag Pole, remove the Flag and stow the Flag in the PVC pipe.

e. Additional rules for the Long Rifle Range:

- (1) Always walk behind the shooting stations.
- (2) Rifles should be cased, unloaded, magazines removed, action open until you reach the shooting station.
- (3) Only shoot at the provided steel targets. No user-placed targets allowed.
- (4) No shooters downrange.
- (5) **NO TRACER OR INCENDIARY AMMUNITION.**
- (6) Fire Prevention and Response. Precautions have been taken to remove all flammable materials from the area around the targets. If you observe smoke coming from anywhere in the forest, move to a location with phone service and call 911. The address is 970 Noel's Draw Lane. Tell the dispatcher the approximate location of the fire. The Fire Department should have its own lock on the gate, but to prevent delays or in case responding personnel are not prepared, open the gate before they arrive.
- (7) No steel jacketed, steel core or armor-piercing bullets allowed. This especially includes "green-tip" XM-855 penetrator ammunition.
- (8) No solid copper bullets allowed as they are a fire hazard and our approval for the two long rifle ranges precludes their use.
- (9) Also see Long Rifle Range Rules sign (Figure 4).

f. Range is Occupied. Unless a group has scheduled the range on the club calendar and if members are waiting, the group or member using the range must vacate in 30 minutes.



Figure 1 - Red Flag Flying & Red Flag Stowage



Figure 2 - Range Entrance with Rope in Long Rifle Range Position

TRAP RANGE USE

- **READ THE TRAP RANGE SOP**
- **FOR LONG RIFLE RANGE:**
 - Ensure range is clear
 - Pull rope across entrance
 - Raise red flag to full height
 - Only shoot from fixed positions
 - No use of Tactical Range allowed
 - No vehicles on range
 - No shooters downrange
 - Obey all signs
- **FOR TACTICAL RANGE:**
 - Ensure range is clear
 - Pull rope parallel to roadway
 - Raise red flag to full height
 - Vehicles allowed on range behind shooters
 - No use of Long Rifle Range allowed
 - Tactical range is for experienced shooters
 - Safety requires vigilance and discipline

Figure 3 - Trap Range Instructions (General)

LONG RIFLE RANGE RULES

- **Shoot from the established shooting positions only.**
- **Calibers up to and including .50 allowed.**
- **No solid copper bullets allowed. These are a fire hazard in wooded areas. You may shoot solid copper bullets on the 100 yard rifle range.**
- **No steel jacketed, steel core or armor piercing bullets allowed. This rule especially includes "green-tip" XM-855 penetrator ammunition. If the projectile in your cartridge attracts a magnet, don't use it.**
- **No tracer or incendiary ammunition.**
- **No shooters downrange. No shooter-placed targets allowed. Law enforcement groups and special events may deviate from this rule with prior approval and only if a range safety officer is monitoring the shooting positions while personnel are downrange.**
- **Violators may face expulsion from the club, banishment from the property, fines for repair of damaged targets and prosecution for vandalism.**
- **Abuse of this rifle range can result in closing of the range for all shooters.**
- **Premises are under 24-hour video surveillance.**

BE RESPONSIBLE. THINK SAFETY!

Figure 4 - Long Rifle Range Rules (Specific)

g. LED Hit Indicators. The steel targets are 1" thick and massive to accommodate large rounds without damage. They may not always create an audible "ring" when hit and they may not noticeably move. To address this problem, some of the larger targets have LED hit indicators. Smaller targets (less than 11" across) do not. If so equipped, the hit indicator is designed to blink red, stay steady briefly and then turn off if a round with enough energy hits the target. Smaller rounds (.223 and .22LR) may not always trigger the hit indicator on the larger targets (such as the deer). If the indicator blinks yellow, a miss is indicated but this feature has proven unreliable in testing. The miss indicator is triggered acoustically with no accompanying acceleration detected by the accelerometer.



Figure 5 - 200 Yard Targets (see Table 1 below)

Table 1 - 200 Yard Long Rifle Range Steel Target Descriptions			
Target Number	Description	Dimensions	LED Hit Indicator?
1	Deer	28" W x 12" H (body only)	Yes, left side and right side of body
2	Hexagon (rack)	2"	No
3	Hexagon (rack)	5"	No
4	Hexagon (rack)	7"	No
5	Hexagon (rack)	9"	No
6	Hexagon (rack)	11"	Yes, left side
7	Silhouette	12" W x 24" H	Yes, left side
8	Hexagon	9"	No



Figure 6 - 300 Yard Targets (before painting, see Table 2 below)

Table 2 - 300 Yard Long Rifle Range Steel Target Descriptions			
Target Number	Description	Dimensions	LED Hit Indicator?
1	Hexagon	2"	No
2	Hexagon	5"	No
3	Hexagon	7"	No
4	Silhouette	12" W x 24" H	Yes, left side
5	Hexagon	13"	Yes, left side
6	Hexagon	11"	No
7	Hexagon	9"	No

- END OF SOP -