



P.O. BOX 7792 MISSOULA, MT 59807 (406) 241-3121
www.hellgatehuntersandanglers.org

September 30, 2016

Missoula County Parks, Trails and Open Lands Program
Attn: Big Sky Park RFP
200 W. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59802

To Whom It May Concern:

Hellgate Hunters and Anglers (HHA) respectfully submits the attached proposal for development of a recreational archery range at Big Sky Park.

1. Contact info: Hellgate Hunters and Anglers, Kit Fischer, President. PO Box 7792 Missoula, MT 59807. Phone: 406-241-3121
2. Years in existence: 10
3. Organizational structure: HHA is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Currently our governing board has 11 members. HHA has over 300 members and supporters in Missoula County.
Current board members and officers include:
Kit Fischer, President
Jill Alban, Vice-President
Josh Conner, Treasurer
Adam Shaw, Secretary
Casey Hackathorn
Bob Ralphs
Tony Hoyt
Tim Aldrich
Hayley Newman
Katie McKalip
Bill Geer
4. HHA's mission is "To conserve Montana's wildlife, wild places, and fair-chase hunting and fishing heritage." To accomplish our mission, [Hellgate Hunters & Anglers](http://www.hellgatehuntersandanglers.org):

- works to protect, enhance and restore wildlife habitat;
 - promotes sound, science-based management of all wildlife species and their habitat;
 - educates and informs hunters, anglers and others about good, ethical hunting and fishing and the biological, cultural and spiritual values of hunting and fishing;
 - ensures that future generations will experience similar, if not better, opportunities to experience wildlife, wild places, hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities;
 - protects and promotes the public trust, ensuring that all people, regardless of wealth or social stature, have fair, equitable access to our public lands, waterways and wildlife;
 - brings together hunters, anglers and other conservationists with diverse backgrounds and interests to provide an influential voice to accomplish our mission;
 - recruits and mentors the next generation of conservation leaders; and
 - helps promote the goals and objectives of the Montana Wildlife Federation and National Wildlife Federation.
5. HHA would like to develop a community archery range at the proposed site. With the adjacent property owner FWP, we believe an archery range would be a fantastic fit for the current space. The site would be available for use, free to the public, year round. It would be made available for educational / training opportunities as well as recreational shooting. The range would allow archers to shoot from various distances (20-60 yds) in developed, approved shooting lanes.
6. HHA believes an archery site would complement the goals of the Big Sky Park Plan. The construction of an archery range would fit well with the existing character of the land and would not require extensive construction or disturbance of the property. The site would not need to be additionally fenced and the native vegetation and topography would be maintained to retain the uniqueness of the land and provide habitat for birds and small mammals. With MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) next door, we envision the potential for trails connecting to their property and integrated educational opportunities.
7. Archery has soared in popularity in recent years. While county specific information is not available from FWP, statewide numbers indicate nearly a 100% increase in licensed archers since 2000. In 2000, 26,754 archery permits were purchased statewide. By 2015, 46,147 permits were sold. Archery education courses in the Missoula area have been booked solid in recent years with soaring attendance. According to FWP, some 600 students per year attend the online and field courses in Missoula (this has been the trend for the past 5-7 years). What has not changed is the availability of safe, convenient sites for archery practice. Currently, archers can shoot at the Deep Creek shooting range, Deer Creek range, and Miller Creek range. Historically an archery range

also existed at Fort Missoula, north of the building complex, but has since been abandoned by the County with the new Fort Missoula master plan.

The challenge with the current archery sites in Missoula is location. Archery differs greatly from other shooting sports and doesn't require the same safety precautions as handguns or rifles, nor does it create the same noise disturbance. While the existing sites do allow archery shooting, they receive limited use from archers because of their far flung locations – often a 20+ minute drive for most residents. For an archer to be proficient, it takes lots of practice. That means shooting several times a week, shooting perhaps no more than a dozen arrows every time. For many archers, this means finding somewhere convenient and close to home—backyards in many cases. This can result in unsafe situations as beginner archers are developing their skills.

In addition, recreational archery shooting is extremely popular and the range would offer opportunities for both bowhunter training and recreational shooting. National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) is a nationally recognized archery education program developed through local schools. NASP has spread from 12 Montana pilot schools to approximately 30 schools statewide. We believe HHA is uniquely positioned to partner with local schools and non-profit organizations such as the Montana Natural History Center that organizes “kids” camps every summer.

HHA's mission is largely focused around fostering and developing the next generation of sportsmen conservationists and ensuring a future for hunting and fishing in the Missoula area. We believe that a convenient archery range would receive very high levels of use and would provide a community need that currently does not exist. This range would not allow crossbows or the use of broadheads.

8. HHA does not envision many exclusive-use scheduled events at the archery site. However, there may be some educational shooting / instruction opportunities led through local schools or FWP. These formal educational opportunities would also be open to the public and would utilize a very small amount of time at the site. For times of year when there is very little archery activity, the site would be perfectly suitable for other uses by the general public; walking, birdwatching, etc. Because the site would receive only light development through construction, the site could easily be converted to another use in the future if a range is not maintained for the long-term.
9. Technical information: See attached site illustrations (meeting county construction requirements / licensing). In the design of the site we conferred with many sources, including FWP, insurers and professional archers. The park is well suited for development of traditional archery lanes, whereby there is a paved shooting lane running north-south, with targets placed at distances of 20 yds to 60 yds facing east-west. Safety standards include an overshoot exclusion area (devoid of large vegetation) that is twice the distance of the longest shooting lane. This ensures that people / wildlife / obstacles would be visible to archers and that any overshoot arrows would have

sufficient room to decelerate and drop in a safe, unoccupied space. The parking lot would include an ADA space and would be upgraded to meet County standards (repaired / sealed / painted). An ADA approved path would then connect the lot to the paved shooting lane. Equipment and waiting areas would be located behind the shooting lanes. Safety instructions and user guidelines would be well-posted at the site.

Schedule of implementation:

October 2016 –April 2017 fundraiser

May 2017 – Site construction. Construct targets (semi-permanent HHA would purchase yearly), signage, seal and paint parking area, create pathways, trim shrubs, pull / spray weeds. (Refer to design diagram)

June/ July 2017- site opening

CPED principles applied: Because of the lack of developed space at the archery park, we believe there is a very low likelihood of crime / vandalism. While access would not be initially regulated at the site, if there are crime / vandalism issues in the future, HHA would be ready to address that through more controlled access with a gate or other environmental design principles. HHA does not plan to use surveillance devices on the property, but would strive to keep the area's appearance clean and orderly. In general the site is unlikely to have much crime because it is very exposed from other vantage points. We have several volunteers and members that live in the adjacent neighborhoods that have a strong interest in seeing an archery range at the Big Sky Park. By empowering neighbors in the management and care of the site, opportunities for crime and vandalism are greatly reduced. If appropriate and/or needed we could install lighting to minimize vandalism. In addition, by partnering and working with local sporting goods stores and schools, the park will have increased visibility and supporters in the community to ensure its long term viability.

ADA accessibility: HHA would utilize the current parking area on the top of the hill on the southwest side of the proposed area and provide an ADA approved parking area / pathway to the shooting lanes.

10. HHA has a dedicated board and dozens of volunteers that are thrilled an archery range may be available to the public. Because of the simple, natural design of the range, very little maintenance and / or capital improvements will be necessary. We are prepared to manage for weeds through spraying/ hand pulling, mowing when necessary and maintaining signage and targets. HHA has an annual budget of roughly \$10,000 and we have few annual costs to the organization. We estimate annual costs of insurance, site maintenance, and improvements at \$1500. In addition, FWP has a shooting range development grant available through a yearly application process (>\$150,000 / year annually) if a covered shelter or additional improvements need to be made. HHA has a diverse and very active board of directors (lawyers, accountants, retired federal employees, conservation professionals) that are committed to the range's success. If necessary, we would hire a caretaker of the site to ensure the properties' appearance and safety is maintained.

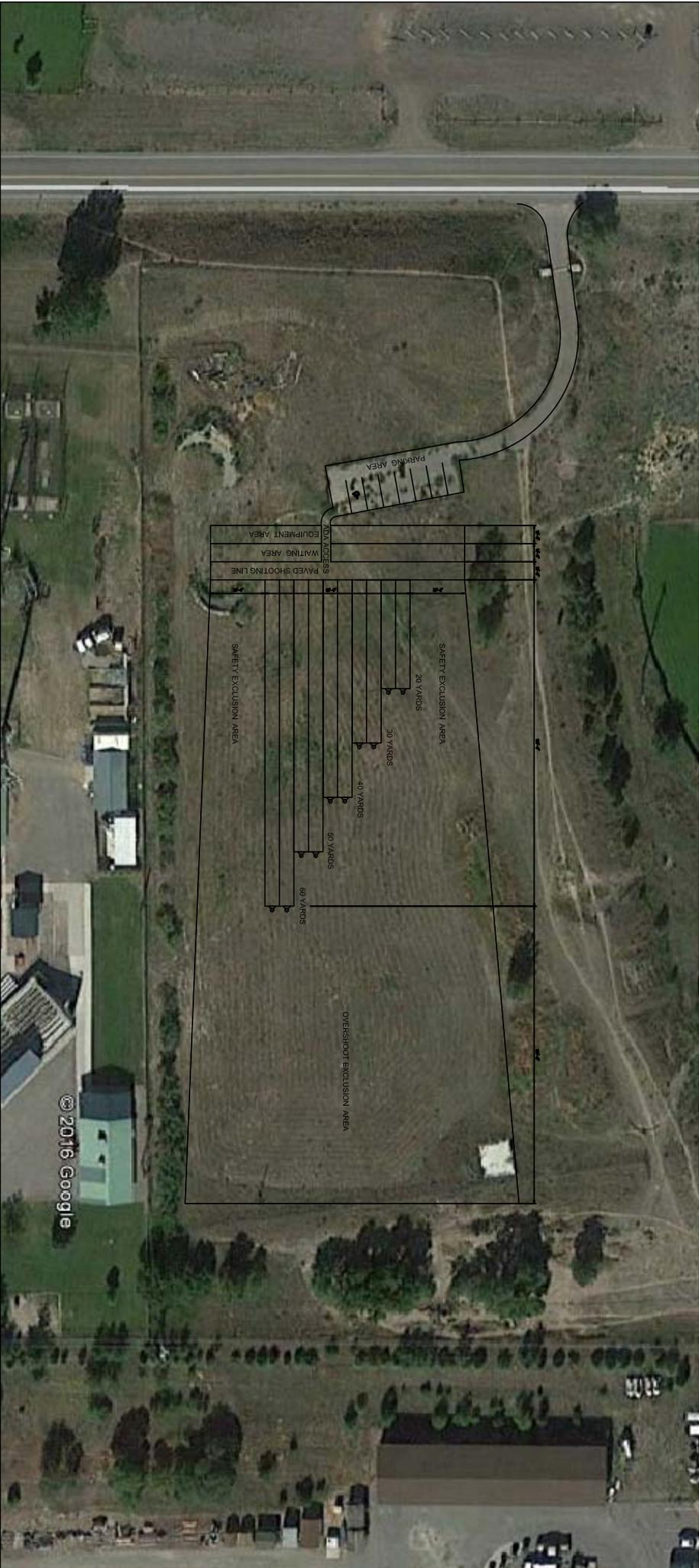
11. HHA hopes the archery range would encourage more collaboration between the National Archery in the Schools Program, MT FWP, and local outdoor education non-profits. We do not envision the need for any facilities, shared or otherwise to store equipment or other items. We would welcome other sportsmen's organizations to utilize the site for educational events and practice. Unlike other shooting ranges in Missoula County, this range would be free to the public and would not require a membership. Other user groups would be more than welcome to use the site if archers are not present.
12. HHA would closely coordinate, as needed, with the Parks, Trails and Open Lands Program to meet the desired outcomes of the park. This communication would be extremely close throughout the design and development of the range. As detailed in the RFP, HHA would continue to coordinate closely as a representative with the Big Sky Stewardship Committee to ensure the long-term use of the park is consistent with the goals of the Big Sky Park plan.
13. We do not expect any County contributions to be made towards the "Big Sky Archery Park". We would rely on the County for expertise and recommendations related to proper and safe development of the site to maintain its design remain consistent with the rest of Big Sky Park and the surrounding area.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any further questions or details.

Sincerely,



Kit Fischer
President, Hellgate Hunters and Anglers



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YEAR	Archery Stamp Sales		
1953	535		
1954	715		
1955	841		
1956	1,453		
1957	1,929		
1958	2,413		
1959	2,753		
1960	2,355		
1961	2,196		
1962	2,193		
1963	2,270		
1964	2,305		
1965	2,373		
1966	2,668		
1967	2,129		
1968	2,865		
1969	3,390		
1970	4,647		
1971	5,370		
1972	6,528		
1973	10,342		
1974	9,875		
1975	9,240		
1976	7,809		
1977	9,239		
1978	10,424		
1979	11,304		
1980	13,945		
1981	15,811		
1982	17,233		
1983	18,639		
1984	19,921		
1985	21,753		
1986	21,438		
1987	22,037		
1988	19,753		
1989	21,102		
1990	21,171		
1991	34,432		
1992	26,465		
1993	25,514		
1994	26,183		
1995	26,638		
1996	26,441		
1997	26,311		
1998	26,276		
1999	27,138		
2000	26,754		
2001	28,646	**Resident	Nonresident
2002	30,105	25,719	4,386
2003	31,246	26,608	4,638
2004	33,688	28,724	4,964
2005	36,068	30,605	5,463
2006	38,729	32,596	6,133
2007	40,955	34,675	6,280
2008	40,486	34,619	5,867
2009	40,388	34,627	5,761
2010	40,907	35,197	5,710
2011	40,730	35,408	5,322
2012	41,766	36,390	5,376
2013	41,910	36,509	5,401
2014	43,071	37,478	5,593
2015	46,147	39,645	6,502

** Prior to 2002 (before ALS) there was no breakdown of res/nonres

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **JUL 31 2014**

HELLGATE HUNTERS AND ANGLERS
C/O MARK OLSON
PO BOX 7792
MISSOULA, MT 59807

Employer Identification Number:
51-0575028
DLN:
17053347324023
Contact Person:
CUSTOMER SERVICE ID# 31954
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
December 31
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990 Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
May 15, 2013
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
Yes

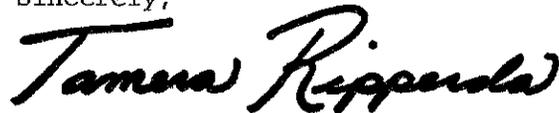
Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Sincerely,



Director, Exempt Organizations

Letter 947

HELLGATE HUNTERS AND ANGLERS

ADDENDUM

Based on the information submitted with your application, we approved your request for reinstatement under Revenue Procedure 2014-11. Your effective date of exemption, as shown in the heading of this letter, is retroactive to the date of revocation.