

Columbia County Shooting Range Considerations - 2013

Dekorra Public Hunting Grounds - Adjacent to Wastewater Treatment Plant

Pros

Topography
 Location is highly disturbed
 Houses are not adjacent to the parcel - on back side of the hill

Cons

Heavy hunter use on the property
 Access from the wayside and for the public are currently not allowed and would be challenging
 Security of the wastewater treatment plant may need to be addressed.
 Endangered species present on the site.

Hinkson Creek Fisheries Area

Pros

Topography
 Not too far from Poynette
 Relatively close to the Interstate and relatively easy to find
 Minimal impacts to hunting and habitat in the area
 Close to the MacKenzie EEC
 Centrally located in the county

Cons

Residences are close, and close to Poynette
 A house in the area was hit by an errant bullet - higher sensitivity
 Takes up main parking area for access to the stream.
 Shooting noise may impact quality of fishing experience.
 Located on a township road.
 Archeological site identified on the site.

Jennings Creek Wildlife Area

Pros

Topography - Would be shooting into a hill.
 A parking lot is currently established on the site
 Not too far off CTH
 Centrally located in the County

Cons

Residences are close to the site
 Challenges have existed with the local elected officials previously
 A campground is not too far away
 This portion of the property is heavily hunted.
 Remote/lightly travel location - dumping could become a problem.
 Difficult to find for new users.

Mud Lake Wildlife Area - King Rd

Pros

Least intrusive to neighboring landowners - only 2 houses close (other than Peter Helland site)
 Close to MacKenzie EEC
 Easy access off of STH 22
 Adjacent area heavily hunted for pheasant. Proposed footprint is lightly hunted.

Cons

Wet soil conditions on portions of the property
 SNA is not far away
 The area was identified for different management in the recently completed MP
 Additional traffic on Conservation Rd would be a problem.

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Topography - Hill provides a safe location

Discussed previously with township

Centrally located in the county

If site is chosen, the township may request fencing around the parking lot.

Site development will need to avoid disturbing Conservation Rd.

Mud Lake Wildlife Area - Hagen Rd

Pros

Close the MacKenzie EEC

Supportive township?

Underutilized Portion of the Property

Centrally located in the county

Cons

Concerns regarding the WA have been expressed by neighbors in the past

Residences are ~300 yards from site.

Soil Types may be challenging

Potential concerns from waterfowl hunters due to the proximity of an important waterfowl hunting area

The trail through the site is heavily used by bowhunters and other outdoor recreationalists

Lots of tree clearing would be required.

Direction of shooting may be challenging due to potential down-range issues.

Peter Hellend Wildlife Area - Sawyer Rd

Pros

Remote Location - distant from residences

Topography

The property has no history of dumping

Cons

Remote Location - Dumping potential

Main hunter access location - waterfowl specifically

Not on a main highway - difficult to find

20 minute drive from Portage

Rowan Creek Fishery Area - CTH CS

Pros

Access - Directly off CS and Close to the Interstate

Easy excavation

Amenities are close (gas, food, etc)

A proposed change to commercial zoning on the adjacent property.

Close the MacKenzie EEC

Centrally located in the county

Cons

Residences are close

1.5 miles from the Columbia County Sportsmans League location that were shooting was shut down by court order
Close to Poynette.

Flat Topography

Size and Soils are questionable

Takes up main parking area for access to the stream. This parking lot is also heavily used by non-consumptive users, dogwalkers, bird watchers etc.

Shooting noise may impact quality of fishing experience.

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This area is likely to be a future crossing of the property by the county snowmobile trail system

Concerns about adjacent development in the area.

Township has identified the adjacent area as an economic development area.

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