

Chairman Hoops and Members of the Committee

My name is Larry Moore and I am a Sportsmen Leader for the Buckeye Firearms Association and on the legislative committee for the Greene County Fish and Game Association. Both organizations strongly support the Conservation Re-investment Initiative in the ODNR Division of Wildlife budget request. I am testifying today on behalf of Buckeye Firearms Association.

Buckeye Firearms Association is a Second Amendment single focus organization. As such, our primary focus in the budget is access to ranges and secondarily public hunting access. We work in partnership with the ODNR Division of Wildlife in several areas. We are currently involved with the Division's range committee working group. We also participated in the recently completed Deer Management Stakeholder Working Group. We appreciate the Division's outreach and working with us as partners.

Access to public ranges are critical to firearms owners across the state. Not all gun owners can afford access to private club ranges or range fees for business shooting ranges. Currently the Division operates 44 ranges which includes rifle, handgun, shotgun and archery ranges. Not all ranges offer all types of shooting opportunity. 25 of the ranges are archery only which require less space and engineering concerns to build and maintain. The ranges are located across 38 counties. The Class A, B and C ranges (firearms ranges) require persons age 18 and older to purchase a range permit with options for a \$24 annual or \$5 daily permit. Archery ranges do not require a permit

Ohio's work on shooting ranges has lagged greatly and fallen way behind the needs of the public. The Spring Valley Wildlife Area range, which is the most heavily used state range, and located in southwest Ohio is currently closed through the fall of 2019 for major renovations. When finally re-opened, it will be a modern state-of-the-art user-friendly facility. The backstops and lead containment will be upgraded, a range master office constructed, modern restrooms and drinking fountains added plus an area for shooters to relax. The Delaware Wildlife Area range has been closed indefinitely pending modernization. That is the closest range to Ohio's largest city, and it's out of commission. The Tranquility Wildlife range in Adams County is closed until further notice. The Tranquility Range has experienced severe drainage issues. The range needs lead remediation and relocation to a more accessible and environmentally friendly location at Tranquility. This range will not be reopened without the funding requested in the ODNR budget from a modest fee increase. Shooters in this area must travel over an hour to access other public ranges. On the east side of Ohio, the Fernwood State Forest Range in Jefferson County is also currently closed for renovations.

Ranges are critical safe public shooting areas for Ohio's firearms owners. The ODNR Division of Wildlife is the only agency offering affordable public ranges. Firearms ownership, along with gun sales, have sky rocketed in recent years. More young people in the millennial population, which is the largest population demographic, are acquiring firearms. Additionally, women are a rapidly growing segment of the shooting public. Both groups demand modern facilities, secure parking, rest areas and clean restroom facilities. Since the advent of the concealed handgun

license in Ohio, many trainers utilize the state handgun ranges for the required range qualification training.

Range construction is a complex and time-consuming operation. It requires engineering plans, permits from the EPA and often other local permits. Additionally, for the ranges located on US Army Corps of Engineers owned land, the Corps requires certain engineering details and permits. The Division of Wildlife range committee is working with a mission of creating a new vision for Ohio's public shooting ranges.

The ODNR Division of Wildlife is facing a significant shortfall in operating budget of \$105 million over the next ten years and a capital budget shortfall of \$126 million over this same time period. This includes a backlog of over \$25 million in shooting range projects and modernization. The monies from the fee increases requested in this budget are critical to the continued operation of safe modern ranges for Ohio's shooting public. I respectfully ask for your support of the ODNR budget on behalf of Buckeye Firearms Association supporters and gun owners across the state in order to provide more quality public range access.

Respectively submitted,

Larry S. Moore
Buckeye Firearms Association
April 9, 2019

SUPPORTING DATA

12 partnership ranges where the Division provides grant money to the private range for public access.

- A = Supervised Rifle and Pistol Target Range
- B = Unsupervised Rifle and Pistol Target Range
- C = Unsupervised Clay Target Shotgun Range
- D = Unsupervised Archery Target Range
- O = Other Public Ranges; not classified by the Division of Wildlife
- '*' = Supervised Trap & Skeet Range; Unsupervised Hand Trap Range (call range for details)

All persons age 18 and older shooting on ODNR Division of Wildlife Class A, B, and C ranges must purchase a Shooting Range Permit which is available at all hunting & fishing license outlets. Permits are not sold at the shooting ranges. These permits partially offset the cost of operations, maintenance, trash removal, and improvements.

Shooters age 17 and under are not required to purchase a permit but must be accompanied by and directly monitored by an adult (age 18 years or older) holding a valid Shooting Range Permit.

Annual Shooting Range Permit	700	\$24.00	Allows the holder to be admitted to Division of Wildlife Class-A, B, and C shooting ranges for one year
1-Day Shooting Range Permit	720	\$5.00	Allows the holder to be admitted to Division of Wildlife Class-A, B, and C shooting ranges for one day

The archery ranges do not require a permit.

PUBLIC AREA	COUNTY	RANGE TYPE	CLASS	CONTACT
Barkcamp State Park	Belmont	Archery	D	(740) 484-4064
Beaver Creek State Park	Columbiana	Archery	D	(330) 385-3091
Berlin Lake Wildlife Area	Portage	Archery	D	(330) 644-2293
Caesar Creek State Park	Warren	Archery	D	(513) 897-3055
Cooper Hollow Wildlife Area	Jackson	Archery	D	(740) 682-7524
Deer Creek Wildlife Area	Fayette	Rifle/Pistol, Shotgun, & Archery	A, C, D	(614) 644-3925
Delaware Wildlife Area	Delaware	Rifle/Pistol, Shotgun, & Archery	A, C, D	(614) 644-3925
Dillon Lake	Licking, Muskingum	Rifle/Pistol, Shotgun, & Archery	O	(740) 452-3529
District Five Office	Greene	Archery	D	(937) 452-3529
District Two Office	Hancock	Archery	D	(419) 424-5000
East Harbor State Park	Ottawa	Archery	D	(419) 734-4424
Fernwood State Forest	Jefferson	Rifle/Pistol & Shotgun	C, O	(330) 339-2205
Geneva State Park	Ashtabula	Archery	D	(440) 466-8400
Grand River Wildlife Area	Trumbull	Rifle/Pistol & Shotgun	A, C	(330) 889-3524
Harrison State Forest	Harrison	Rifle/Pistol	O	(614) 262-5671
Hebron Fish Hatchery	Licking	Archery	D	(740) 928-8092
Hocking Hills State Park	Hocking	Archery	D	(740) 385-6842
Hueston Woods State Park	Butler, Preble	Archery	D	(513) 523-

PUBLIC AREA	COUNTY	RANGE TYPE	CLASS	CONTACT
				6347
Indian Creek Wildlife Area	Brown	Shotgun & Archery	C, D	(937) 372-9261
Lake Hope State Park	Vinton	Archery	D	(740) 596-4938
Lake Vesuvius/Wayne National Forest	Lawrence	Archery	D	(740) 534-6500
Mary Jane Thurston State Park	Henry	Archery	D	(419) 832-7662
Maumee Bay State Park	Lucas	Archery	D	(419) 836-7758
Monroe Lake Wildlife Area	Monroe	Rifle/Pistol	B	(740) 489-5021
Oxbow Lake Wildlife Area	Defiance	Shotgun	C	(419) 424-5000
Paint Creek State Park	Highland, Ross	Archery	D	(937) 393-4284
Punderson State Park	Geauga	Archery	D	(440) 564-2279
Resthaven Wildlife Area	Erie	Shotgun	C	(419) 547-6007
Rush Run Wildlife Area	Preble	Shotgun	C	(937) 372-9261
Salt Fork State Park	Guernsey	Archery	D	(740) 439-3521
Salt Fork Wildlife Area	Guernsey	Shotgun	C	(740) 489-5021
Shawnee State Park	Scioto	Archery	D	(740) 858-6652
Spencer Lake Wildlife Area	Medina	Archery	D	(330) 644-2293
Spring Valley Wildlife Area	Greene	Rifle/Pistol, Shotgun, & Archery	A, C, D*	(937) 862-5162
St. Marys Fish Hatchery	Auglaize	Archery	D	(419) 394-5170
Tranquility Wildlife Area	Adams	Rifle/Pistol	B	(937) 372-

PUBLIC AREA	COUNTY	RANGE TYPE	CLASS	CONTACT
[Closed until further notice]				9261
Tri-Valley Wildlife Area	Muskingum	Archery	D	(740) 824-3211
Van Buren State Park	Hancock	Archery	D	(419) 832-7662
Veto Lake	Washington	Archery	D	(740) 962-2048
Wingfoot Lake	Portage	Archery	D	(330) 644-2293
Wolf Creek Wildlife Area	Morgan	Rifle/Pistol, Shotgun, & Archery	B, C, D	(740) 962-2048
Woodbury Wildlife Area	Coshocton	Rifle/Pistol, Shotgun, & Archery	A, C, D*	(740) 327-2109
Wyandot Wildlife Area	Wyandot	Shotgun	C	(419) 424-5000
Zaleski State Forest	Vinton	Pistol/Shotgun	O	(740) 596-5781