

## Columbia County Shooting Range

Respondents: 427 Status: Open

Launched Date: 03/13/2014 Closed Date: 04/15/2014

3. Please provide any other comments you'd like the DNR and the ad hoc committee to consider.

### Full Response

1. Lowville has no businesses that would benefit; Dekorra has many including filling stations, fast food stores and several locally owned restaurants. The amount of trash on King Road/Conservation Drive is already taxing those of us who have to clean it up; any additional "sportsmen" to the area would increase that burden. Thank you for listening. that burden. [.]

2. The Mud Lake site is much better since the human population inside the 1000 yd buffer is much less. Mud Lake has 2-3 structures vs Dekorra 50-60. The noise would still be heard from the Dekorra range. If wind and air condition are it would be very objectionable [.]

3. I can't read a topo map - why can't you show the proposed sites on a regular street / highway map so regular people can read it? Then maybe I could offer an informed decision. [.]

4. The site with more terrain relief would be a better suited location [.]

5. Mud Lake is closer to DNR offices at McKenzie and an area more likely to be kept under better surveillance. [.]

6. Last fall (2013) we moved from Whitetail Dr to Saddle Ridge. We spent 6 or 7 years listening to the near constant gunfire at DNR's Swan Lake area. I moved there hoping to hunt DNR's land. As it turned out I tried twice but decided it was not safe. I saw shooters shooting NW where a non contained bullet would head for SHWY 51. Neighbors across P found bullets in their yard. Shooting was from sun up to sun set and at times in the dark using headlights. Entertaining in our own backyard and screen porch would be interrupted by gunfire noise. Often our dog would go inside during the shooting. I heard what I believe to be automatic gunfire during the summer months. A safe place to shoot is needed. Swan Lake area worked until it was developed. These activities need checking on by authorities and I believe the closer to DNRs McKenzie site, the better. Thank you for the opportunity of expression and thank you for your efforts to resolve the safety of a neighborhood. FYI, I do my shooting at Portage Rod and Gun club. [.]

7. How much is this government entitlement program for gun owners going to cost us and what, if anything, will it fix. If you make a choice to have a gun, take personal responsibility and join a private gun club. Don't ask the tax payers to pay for you to shoot your new toy. [.]

8. If the Dekorra site is chosen, will people be able to hear gunshots from the interstate rest stop? If so, I'm worried about negative impacts such as calls about gunshots to law enforcement or the anti-gun public applying pressure to close a gun range so close to the interstate. [.]

9. Mud Lake is a heavy hunting area in the fall. Summer time brings on the beautiful prairie which is great to walk through to bird and butterfly watching. Dekorra's site would be easy off and on for the shooters with McDonalds and gas which offers licenses. [.]

10. We are a company called Paragon Tactical Inc in California. We build indoor and outdoor shooting ranges. We are the only company approved to build a shooting range on the National Parks in the US because we can meet all of the environmental standards. As a result we have a range built on the North rim and South rim of the Grand Canyon for Park Ranger use. Please have someone call me so that we may discuss the requirements of the proposed range and see how we can help you.

11. Too many houses in area of Dekorra, adversely affects wildlife and hunting grounds, response time if someone is injured would be over 25 minutes, safety concerns on local residents, many users walk this area with dogs. Stray dogs from local residences. Many convicted felons live in the immediate area, threat to people stopping at the rest area! [.]

12. As a resident in Dekorra, close to the proposed site, I am very disappointed that this site has made it this far in the selection process. The proposed area is too close to residents, the interstate, and the neighboring rest area. Each of the proposal maps shows homes that are in a range of that area. There are 2 homes in the Mud Lake area and 76 in the Dekorra area proposal. Undoubtedly, more residents would be affected in the Dekorra Public Hunting Grounds proposal. Another concern is the safety of the shooters, if any accidents occurred it would be a minimum of 25 minutes to any type of medical attention. It is also concerning for the safety of children in the area, residents that walk the paths in the public hunting grounds, and the negative affect on the wildlife in the area [.]

13. Dekorra is much too populated for a shooting range [.]

14. Location of Dekorra site is dangerous with enormous risks for accidents! [.]

15. Way too many residents around the DPHG site, including the rest areas. [.]

16. We have three parcels of land that border Dekorra Public Hunting Grounds we live on one parcel closest to the proposed shooting range. We have 7 grandchildren and two dogs that like to play outside, there is always the chance for stray bullets. So safety and noise are factors in our not wanting the shooting range in Dekorra. My father and Grandfather farmed this land and always found lots of Indian artifacts throughout this property. We are concerned that this could be an important site in Indian history that should not be lost. We know that there are Indian mounds on nearby land and that could be a possibility here too. We strongly urge you to choose Mud Lake.

17. No matter where it goes you need some sort of DNR/Police monitoring. I have used the HWY P site before and have never once had any sort of enforcement stop in there. And that place is right on the highway. Either way I feel people are still going to trash it like they have the hwy P site. I have found myself paying to go to the gun club to have to deal with less unsafe people and more strict enforcement.

18. Too much noise, too many stray bullets, no supervision [.]

19. Your survey asks which site provides a better experience for the shooters yet you say that the facility would be the same at either site. Which would bring a better experience for the neighbors? Neither! I live within 1000 yards of the Dekorra site. I live in the country because of the peace and quiet. The last thing I want is to hear the sound of gunfire all day long. This site disrupts the most number of residences as well as the tranquility of those trying to enjoy the river. Considering all of the private property this would affect at the Dekorra site, it will bring less of an economic benefit, because our property values will plummet, as who wants to live next to a shooting range? NOT ME! [.]

20. Gun ranges do not belong next to residential property. [.]

21. The Wisconsin River is a huge tourism draw. Putting a shooting range near there certainly isn't going to increase the no. of visitors. I can't imagine the sound of shooting being relaxing. [.]

22. With so many other potential sites available, this location makes the least sense being so close to I90 and a residential area. [.]

23. I don't care about the disruption to the other users of the DNR property or what kind of experience the shooters will have. I care about the fact that I live within 500 yards of this proposed site and it will be LOUD! This is not needed or wanted! [.]

24. The traffic noise from the Interstate would better muffle the sound of the shooting range. It is pristinely quiet around the Mud Lake area other than during the bit of shooting that occurs during the hunting season. [.]

25. noise pollution already exists at the dekorra site, dekorra is a disturbed site already and closer to the mas ses and retailers. mud lake is serien and quiet, please don't ruin my peacefull weekends with gunfire, my land borders the mud lake site to the south. quality deer hunting has disappeared since the prairie restoration to the south of king road. the added noise would only spook the deer further from the area. please leave the mud lake area alone. thanks,

26. I do not believe the residential area immediately adjacent to the Dekorra site was taken into consideration. With 70-80 homes in the so called buffer zone, the noise factor alone should have eliminated this as an option. [.]

27. Why would one think the topography of the Dekorra site would eliminate the noise? I live adjacent to the site and the highway noise is very pronounced. If that comes through, why wouldn't gunshot noise? No sense!! [.]

28. Blue sky restraints and rule boards are meaningless if there is no one supervising the range. Some will do as they please/ [.]

29. Concerns for noise, errant shots, traffic, littering in the rural development adjacent to proposed dekorra site. [.]

30. Why wasn't Pine Island considered? In a commercial/industrial area instead of residential? [.]

31. fewer dwellings at mud lake. [.]

32. The Dekorra site is in my parents, and several other residents, backyard. Really? The other site would inconvenience two residential properties compared to the many near the Dekorra site. [.]

33. Dekorra is too close to residential areas and you will disrupt wildlife by putting a shooting range in the wildlife area. [.]

34. Dekorra site has over 70 residential dwellings. This site makes absolutely no SENSE! [.]

35. Should never be so close to residential!!! [.]

36. fewer people reside in buffer zone at mud lake [.]

37. There are enough shooting ranges. I live 3-4 miles from the range in Harmony Grove. It is very noisy. Blasting weekdays, weekends, can't enjoy peace & quiet, can hear even with windows of the house closed.

38. Too many people live close to proposed site. [.]

39. Take a look at the housing numbers around the Dekorra site compared to the Mud Lake site. Also I purchased my property for being able to hunt and fish the area. The public land is outside my back door do you realize what this will do to the deer hunting both gun and bow that use this property. Also the safety issues in this more populated area not only with the housing but the interstate and other local roads. Then it comes down to the noise of the gun shots granted there will always be shots heard from hunting but the constant of people sighting in guns prior to opening gun hunting season what's next trap shooting leagues year round also. o [.]

40. MOST RANGES ARE PRIVATE AREN'T THEY? WHY IS THE STATE INVOLVED IN THIS? [.]

41. Why not pine island? [.]

42. Pros and cons makes it seem like DNR is more interested in the fisherpeople than with the people who live in the Dekorra area. [.]

43. Has the claim that topography and berms will reduce noise at the Dekorra site been tested? [.]
44. too many people live in the dekorra "buffer zone". [.]
45. I live next to mud lake and would not be one to complain about noise. Also I would volunteer to help maintain the grounds and do any clean up of the site. [.]
46. Close to our home and would not mind the noise [.]
47. Residential area next to proposed Dekorra range will experience decreased property values. [.]
48. Will property owners be compensated for property devaluation? [.]
49. Live near the proposed Dekorra site. Had people coming into town this weekend to make offer on my home. Selling realtor caught wind of this and the potential buyers have cancelled our meeting. Thanks Alot!! [.]
50. I would like to see monitoring cameras installed that would capture all license plates. [.]
51. my dog has to be on "doggie downers" during deer hunting. Now he will have to on them ALL the time! [.]
52. Some "Cons" include the effect on fishing experience. How about those who live in the area. That should be a definite con for the Dekorra site. [.]
53. We have a corn maze and strawberry patch that attracts a lot of visitors to Columbia County near the Mud Lake site, and do not wish to have a shooting range within a mile of our farm. We wish to provide a peaceful country setting for families to visit, and truly believe having a shooting range so nearby would be detrimental to our business. [.]
54. Dekorra site is designated for public hunting. Noise from proposed range would drive any wildlife away. Plus loss of acreage for hunting. Not only land the range takes up, but the area behind it due to danger of stray bullets. [.]
55. Site should be as remote as possible so as to avoid bad neighbor relations. [.]
56. Dekorra site has too many homes within the so-called buffer zone. [.]
57. As I understand it, this would be an unsupervised range. Too many possibilities of area residents and building to take stray fire from people goofing off/ not following the rules. [.]
58. Too much noise for the residents in 80 nearby dwellings. [.]
59. Cons listed for other sites seem to favor animal and plant life over human life. [.]
60. Traffic on hwy V is pretty substantial during tourist season. Added traffic for a range makes it that much more dangerous. [.]

61. There is a trail to the hunting grounds off of the River Oaks cul de sac. Fear that will be used to gain access to range increasing traffic and causing parking problems along that narrow road. [.]
62. The topography does not knock down the sound at Dekorra. We live near the site and when people are hunting, it sometimes sounds like they are right next to our house. [.]
63. open hours from 9 am to 5 pm daily 365 days a year [.]
64. The Mud Lake area is way too remote and just because there are less houses nearby, doesn't mean less people will be affected. There is no topography to block the noise to the south and west, where the prevailing winds will blow it! How will safety be ensured? A rifle range requires a lot more staffing, and the public will be stuck with the liability and the infrastructure needed for this, long-term. A rifle range leaves a significant footprint on the land, as well. Ammunition and other pollution, unexploded ordnance/duds, all of these things are reasons not to put a range on a unpolluted piece of property. If the choice is only to site it in one location or the other, I think the area that is near the interstate and that constant noise would be better. AND this does not agree with the WA Master Plan, which was only done 2 years ago- it is a bad precedent and practice to go against the master plan. [.]
65. Dekorra has more businesses that would benefit from the traffic to that site would provide. [.]
66. Mud Lake is known for pheasant hunting. I don't think this would remain the same if a shooting range were constructed there. [.]
67. A shooting range at Mud Lake would affect the business at the Barn at Harvest Moon Pond in a negative way. Who wants to get married with shooting going on in the background? [.]
68. There are 2 agritourism businesses located within the 1000' buffer zone that will suffer from the constant noise that a shooting range will create. [.]
69. Too many residents too nearby at Dekorra [.]
70. 80 dwellings in dekorra buffer vs 2 in mud lake - no brainer. [.]
71. Will lower home values for many residences at the Dekorra site [.]
72. Great site choice. [.]
73. There should be a couple questions on how this wouldn't be good for homes, children, family pets who live nearby [.]
74. can you limit shooting hours from 10 am-5 pm for us? [.]
75. blasing hours open from 10 morning to 4 afternoons daily [.]
76. SAT/SUN hours 10-4, and M-F 9 to 5. Perfect !! [.]
77. this is going to hurt the barn at harvest moon. no one wants gun shots during their wedding. [.]

78. Dekorra makes more sense with ready access from the interstate. [.]
79. open shooting year round from 10 in the morning to 5 at nite [.]
80. limit hours for sleep and fun at home, say 9-430 daily please [.]
81. limit on hours to late morning, and early afternoons [.]
82. Mud Lake is too popular with visitors to have a shooting range. Many neighbors of that area that I know (I live within a few miles of Mud Lake) do not want it there. [.]
83. Per open house, DNR may be able to provide funds for conservation rd maintenance. [.]
84. please only allow mid day shooting and no late afternoons [.]
85. Too many houses and too loud for noise that echoes off the bluffs and river. This is already a noise issue with the hunters. [.]
86. Fits better in Mud Lake. More remote. [.]
87. close practice at 515 daily, and open at 10 in the morning [.]
88. limit hours late morning to early afternoon [.]
89. Mud lake is a more isolated site [.]
90. I attended the public meeting in Portage last week and found it very informational. I am very concerned about the impact on local property owners if the range is located at the Dekorra property. I feel that it would negatively impact property values in the area. The Mud Lake location would impact land owners significantly less than the Dekorra site. I do expect the DNR to minimize issrues related to sound and construct the range to maximize safety. I am happy that PR funds will be spent here in Columbia and look forward to using the new range wherever it is constructed. Thank you.
91. Property values of the many properties in the Dekorra site "Buffer Zone" will suffer. Following is a note from a couple who was interested in purchasing our home to their real estate agent: "As we discussed the River Oaks property may be a home we would put an offer on, however, recent news of the possibility of the DNR placing a shooting range on the surrounding land would absolutely change our minds. How very unfortunate this would be for all of the property owners in the neighborhood. If a timely decision is made regarding the proposal and the shooting range is NOT going to be built there, we may reconsider making an offer.
92. I am very glad the DNR is working to make a safe shooting range for those of us who do not have any land or other options to use our firearms. Thanks. [.]
93. Dekorra site would cause gun noise to wayside visitors. [.]
94. residential area too close to Dekorra site. [.]

95. The 2 dwellings in the Mud Lake buffer zone are further from the proposed range than many of the dwellings in the Dekorra site. [.]

96. Fewer dwellings in the buffer zone at Mud Lake. [.]

97. Several homes within 1000 feet at the Dekorra site. And about 80 within the 1000 yd buffer zone [.]

98. One is a hunting ground and the other a wildlife area. A shooting range does not benefit either site. It will drive game off of the hunting grounds and disrupt wildlife at the mud lake site. [.]

99. Recent proposed ordinances in Dekorra likely make that a potential hornets nest to pursue. In addition, the proximity to the highest volume rest stop in the state might not be ideal as well. [.]

100. Mud lake only has two dwellings to consider vs 80 for Dekorra. [.]

101. Addition of gunshot noise to the noise from the interstate highway will make living in the vicinity of the range a nightmare. [.]

102. I'm concerned about the noise levels and property values in the Dekorra area -- too many homes are affected [.]

103. The shooting sports, including informal target shooting must be maintained in this community. [.]

104. Too many homes close by to the Dekorra proposed site [.]

105. With 60 homes effected with the Dekorra site and only two effected with the Mud Lake site, Dekorra is a big no vote! [.]

106. Very concerned about the negative effect on property values at the proposed Dekorra site! [.]

107. Proximity of Dekorra site to residential area will make life outside of the home less enjoyable [.]

108. I was here first. We built our home 15 years ago and we love the beauty, quiet and peacefulness of this area. A shooting range at Dekorra wil absolutely destroy that. Please do the right thing, and say no! [.]

109. Doubt the noise level will be able to be reduced to a level that would allow me to enjoy being outside my home in Dekorra. [.]

110. The Dekorra site is located to close to too many homes ! [.]

111. There are too many houses in the Dekorra area. [.]

112. 80 residents at Dekorra vs 2 at Mudd Lake. [.]

113. The proposed shooting range in the Dekorra Public Hunting Grounds is right in our backyard. As it is, we are able to clearly hear gunshots from hunters, while indoors & outdoors. The last thing we need is to hear even MORE gunshots. [.]

114. We are resident within 1000 buffer. Use Dekorra site for hiking. Worried about traffic on Hwy V, lots of people fish in grade near site, not safe. Totally against Dekorra site. [.]

115. Why was "nearby residences" not listed as a con for the Dekorra site? How does "Shooting noise may impact quality of fishing experience" work as a con for some sites while local residential area does not make the list. Seems the priorities are animals, plants, tourists and bones over real human beings. [.]

116. OVER 70 HOMES IN THE BUFFER ZONE IN DEKORRA. SAFETY CONCERNS TONS OF PEOPLE HIKE IN THE PROPOSED AREA. [.]

117. Property values in Dekorra site neighborhood will drop hence less tax base hence higher tax rate for all homeowners in the township. Mud Lake township would gain DNR funding for maintenance of Conservation road. [.]

118. WE LIVE IN AREA AND HIKE THE PROPOSE SITE, HIGHLY OBJECT TO DEKORRA SITE [.]

119. I'd like to see Mud Lake kept out of the shooting range [.]

120. HomeSmart Realty Group in Centennial said "home values typically went down 7 to 30 percent when a gun range moved in". I'd imagine the closer you are, the higher the devaluation. That said, mine would probably be in the 30% range. No Thanks!!!! [.]

121. In a case where neighbors of a shooting range brought a private nuisance action against a gun club because of the noise, the court held it to be a private nuisance and stated "the law is clear that where a trade or business as carried on interferes with the reasonable and comfortable enjoyment by another of his property, a wrong is done to a neighboring owner for which an action lies at law or equity. In such cases it makes no difference that the business was lawful and one useful to the public and conducted in the most approved method." Edmonds v. Murphy, 573 A.2d 853 (Md. App. 1990). [.]

122. Market valuations for more than a dozen properties near a Noonday rifle and pistol range were reduced 30 percent, more than \$850,000, Friday by a Smith County Appraisal District review board. [.]

123. Property Values Impacted by the Presence of Gun Clubs There is evidence that the presence of gun clubs in urban areas and the surrounding countryside alike does lower property values. Building and Development Evidence • Building inspectors and development officials are usually against the introduction or relocation of a gun club because they have evidence that, during the submission of gun-club proposals, potential property buyers will only complete their purchase on land or a house if the planning application for the gun club is rejected. If a gun club is built, fewer properties are sold, which then impacts adversely on the value of other properties in the same area. Therefore, this supports the theory that property prices are adversely affected by the approval and relocation of gun clubs. Sale of Properties • Local residents who live in areas where gun clubs are being proposed or have already been built also have evidence their properties are worth less as a result of the proposal or construction. [.]

124. Property prices are affected by the lead-shot health link. Lead shot poses a threat to clean water supplies, the health of wild animals and plants and the health of local people and their children. When

shot is fired, it tends to create a fine dust which travels through the air or into water. Lead is poisonous when ingested and is absorbed by the gut and lungs, leading to potential nervous-system problems in children and adults. For example, Springer Link reports a direct correlation between firing ranges and elevated lead exposure and other birds. [.]

125. The noise of regular and prolonged gunfire causes substantial noise that is sudden, loud and lasting. This is cited by residents as the most concerning factor in bringing house values down because people considering a move into the local area do not want to hear gun shots and residents already living in the area may wish to move out. In an example of a case brought to court in Hamilton County, Indiana, a gun-club proposal was rejected because of concerns that noise pollution would become a serious problem in the area, as reported by Case Law. [.]

126. I do not feel Dekorra is the place for a shooting range. This is a well established neighborhood of families. We selected our current residence based on peace and quiet as well as a safe place to live. I do not understand how it was determined a shooting range was identified as needed. I am a hunter and fisherman and have never been given the opportunity to complete a survey to complete to say whether or not a shooting range is needed in Columbia county as the DNR has communicated. As a resident of Dekorra I feel I have been insulted to think we would want or approve a shooting range in our community. Not one person on the adhoc committee lives near this site. If the DNR wants to spend their PR money I feel the site should be developed to accommodate family recreation not FEAR. Further, without a plan to staff the site I feel it would become a tremendous nuisance to the community. [.]

127. Shame on anyone from the DNR or their Adhoc committee for thinking the Dekorra site would be a good fit for a shooting range. I questioned the integrity of the board president the Honorable (not) Mr. Schmidt and his support of this action. One might ask why he is for it? Because his very neighbors do not like his personal shooting range on his property. This will give him an alternate site to annoy someone else. [.]

128. I served in the USMC. Every shooting range that the military has are miles away from any residential area for a reason. What is the motivation identifying Dekorra as a viable site? I am disgusted with the town board to even consider this and not fight for the 70 residence that this would effect. Election day cannot come soon enough. [.]

129. Dekorra has hills which could help with safety and noise reduction. Also Dekorra already has commerce established which can benefit from people coming to the Dekorra area. The I90-94 Poynette interchange is close as well. Mud Lake location is too close to Agri Tourism businesses like The Barn At Harvest Moon, Creekbed Country Farmacy (corn maze & u pick strawberries), Lapacek's Apple Orchard. Other Agri Tourism businesses are considering locations near Mud Lake area. In addition, the roads in Lowville Township would be used for excessive traffic. A concern here is that the township would have to use more tax dollars to maintain the country roads. [.]

130. Why put this in a more heavily populated residential area. If you have to do this, at least go to mud Lake. [.]

131. No shots fired after 530 pm 7 days a week - ok then, just go for it [.]
132. The large number of people that showed up and were obviously opposed at the Dekorra Township mtg. [.]
133. Dekorra site is a long winding route from interstate and Hwy 51 through many speed zones. Safety concern. [.]
134. The Glass Lizard is an endangered species and is present at the Dekorra site [.]
135. The proposed site at Dekorra is 1000 FEET from my property! [.]
136. Lived in Dekorra for 15 years and do not see the need to place the range in my neighborhood [.]
137. Concerned about the drop in property value in Dekorra site area [.]
138. Too most to be that close to so many people, regardless of measures taken to subdue it. People complain in areas where ranges are indoor when that close to residential area. [.]
139. No dekorra. Put at mudd lake [.]
140. An unattended gun range???? [.]
141. Very disruptive to hunters [.]
142. Too many houses at Dekorra proposed site [.]
143. Has the Sierra club been made aware of the glass lizard/snake that is present on the Dekorra site? [.]
144. There are only two homes at mud lake vs 70 homes at Dekorra [.]
145. Was outside today enjoying the peace and quiet in my Dekorra home. Please don't take that away! [.]
146. There are lots of houses around Dekorra. ....terrible place for shooting! [.]
147. The shooting range off Cty Hwy P south of Portage is close enough for people to travel to. [.]
148. Cons for other sites included difficulty for new user to find the site. The Dekorra site is not easily located either, requiring several turns after exiting the interstate.. So why was that not considered as a con for the Dekorra site? [.]
149. Dekorra site too near residential area. [.]
150. Mud Lake Hagen Rd reasoning for removal from consideration was not well defined in the meeting minutes. Neither was the reasoning for selection of the two sites that were considered. Poorly run

group. Should provide very definite reasoning for deletion and rejection. especially whe 80 + residents in the Dekorra buffer area are put at risk of noise pollution as well as risk of stray bullets. [.]

151. "•Minimize the number of residences within the 1,000 yard buffer to minimize noise". So why was Dekorra even considered? [.]

152. There are 70 homes in Dekorra that would be affected and only 2 in Mud Lake. Will be noisy and add traffic to Hwy V. [.]

153. I am outraged you would consider a heavy populated area in Dekorra! [.]

154. some sites were rejected due to resistance from neighbors. There is an awful lot of resistance from the Dekorra neighbors adjacent to the proposed range. Please take that into consideration. [.]

155. Do the right thing. There are 70 households at Dekorra and only 2 at Mudd Lake. [.]

156. Mud Lake easier to get to. More remote, Fewer nearby residents, Lowville needs funds available for road maintenance. [.]

157. Too many houses around the Dekorra site. Too many complaints anticipated [.]

158. Great place for range because of access and adjacent to hunting [.]

159. With all of the homes within the 1000 yard circle, I can not believe that the Dekorra site is even on the list. There are many other much better sites to choose from. Also, if open shooting is allowed on public hunting grounds in Columbia county, why are we even talking about adding a shooting range. There is way too much money being spent on something that isn't needed. [.]

160. The Mud Lake site is located more central to the county and is easier to access. Mud Lake is also easier for the MacKenzie Center to use and for the people who have volunteered to help take care of it. In my opinion there are several other DNR lands more suitable than iether of these including one that was on the list of seven considered. On the Peter Hellend wildlife area off Sawyer road is a site that is the one farthest from nearby homes, easy access yet remote enough to disturb the fewest people. Due to the problems with shooting on other various state lands in Columbia County it is very important to stop target shooting at other areas once the safe shooting range is complete. [.]

161. The town of Dekorra (and Columbia county but to a lesser extent) would see a substantial drop in revenues as the 80 or so properties in the Buffer Zone lose up to 30% of their value due to a range being built as has happened in other areas of the country.. [.]

162. If people in Columbia county have asked for this range, take up a collection to buy out the adjacent residents at current market values. Once that amount of money is raised, go ahead and build it. [.]

163. Dekorra has more businesses that will benefit than Lowville and also already have the Interstate noise to buffer the sound. [.]

164. Building a shooting range in the middle of populated area where many people have chosen to live due to it's natural, peaceful locale is unacceptable. The increased traffic on already-compromised county roads means more costs to our small community. There are a number of children in our area (yes, I live across the road from this site) and in a time when we have been subjected to so many school shootings, it seems unfair to subject them or anyone to this "sport." I do not wish this on the affected people at Mud Lake, but since it is far less populated, it certainly makes sense to subject fewer people to this insult. Let people who have no problem living near a shooting choose to build there, but do not subject those who have chosen to live and build in an area the right to continued peace such as it is. I truly hope you will not be situating this shooting range in the middle of our populated community. We do not, do NOT care to have this in our community where people walk along the road, bike and fish. [.]

165. I live year round across the street from Dekorra PHG for the last 15 years and have 2 elementary aged children. I worry about their safety, as well as the constant noise that will decrease our quality of life, as well as the value of our property. I use the PHG for hikes and dog walks with my family as there is not much within walking distance. If you put the shooting range there, you will take that experience away from myself and my family!!! Please don't! [.]

166. Mosquito, and other bug control should be thought about. The range should have berms between the rifle and pistol ranges, so people can check targets separately. Build more shooting positions, than you think you need. Have a roof over some portions of the range, but not all. Some people like to shoot standing, with no roof above them. I oppose "culverts" or "shooting tunnels", as they are not a true shooting experience. Open up part of the area, to hand or portable machine thrown, clay targets, for people to practice informal shotgun shooting. Some area should have covered benches, for people wanting to sight in rifles/handguns. Perhaps open an area to shooting at items other than paper targets (not garbage), but tin cans, and the new resealing ground targets, like those sold by Cabela's, etc., and the "dueling tree" or "spinner" steel targets. With no range officer, red lights with switches, at shoot stations nice to visually call a range ceasefire. [.]

167. Your web site says that "it was determined that a shooting range is needed", but not how that determination was made. I question the need. It certainly should not be at the Dekorra site because of the number of neighbors affected. [.]

168. Due to the close proximity to the Interstate rest areas, local roads that need to be traveled and the number of residents in the area, I think the Mud Lake would be a better choice. [.]

169. I just purchased 14 acres bordering the Dekorra site for bowhunting since I'am retired I can hunt a lot. I planned to be out in the woods daily during the season and the shooting range would totally wreck my hunting and also make it dangerous. Would the DNR like to purchase my property as they would be making it unusable to me? [.]

170. Once a range is operational I would like to see a law that there would be no target shooting on Columbia County DNR lands like the law is for Dodge, Sauk and Dane Counties. [.]

171. Thanks for asking! [.]

172. less disruption to state natural area [.]

173. There are far fewer disruptions at the Mudd Lake site. Please do not allow this range at Dekorra where up to 70 households will be within the 1000 buffer zone. [.]

174. I live adjacent to the Dekorra site and bow hunt on the public hunting grounds. If a shooting range is located there, there will be little chance any game will be around to hunt as the noise will scare them off. [.]

175. V. I bought this property 30 years ago because of the QUITE location. Constant shooting from this range will disrupt the neighborhood. The increased traffic on county V will cause a safety problem due to the many children that ride their bikes in this area. I counted 78 residences in the 1000 yard area around the proposed site in Dekorra and only 2 in the same area at Mud Lake. Please use some common sense and place the shooting range where it will have the least impact on the people in the area. Thank You [.]

176. Mud Lake would not disturb as many people! [.]

177. Dekorra site will lower property value & quality of life in area [.]

178. I find it absurd to even think the Dekorra site is an option. [.]

179. Living within the buffer zone of the Dekorra site all neighbors can tolerate the shooting during the hunting seasons. But opening up a public range so close to housing is foolish. Where 200 acres and about 80 homes just within the buffer zone compared to 3 in an area of over 3000 acres. I want to come home and enjoy my deck evenings and weekends without listening to several hundred shoots a day and more so on the weekends. And what about the Indian encampments in that area. I do understand the your trying to buffer the noise that won't be enough and even so unproven. I do hunt deer, duck, goose and I know for a fact that there is no way your going to keep the noise levels down for all these neighbors inside and out of the area. Like I say we moved here knowing of the hunting season's but not 365 days a year. [.]

180. How will the decibel level be measured at the property line? What is the accepted level? How will the lead be contained to prevent contaminating the ground water and run-off into the nearby stream? All of the houses within the 1000 yard circle of influence are on well water. Will tournaments be allowed? Hours of operation, will Sunday be a quiet day? Will shooting be allowed during deer season? As one of the 70 residential property owners within the 1000 yards circling the proposed gun range, the sound or noise generated by the shooting range will have an impact on the enjoyment on the use of the property. People move to Dekorra to "get away" from the intrusion of outside influences. The target range will become a bothersome neighbor. One can expect the assessed value to decrease on about 70 residences because of the potential lower sales in the area as a result from the noise. We will have lower assessed value on our property. I am opposed to the Dekorra site. [.]

181. Dekorra is a poor choice overall. Probably one of the worst options given the number of households in the vicinity. [.]

182. don't destroy the beauty of our quiet neighborhood. [.]

183. I'm too close to where the range would be in Dekorra and have dogs with anxiety issues. [.]

184. We moved to Dekorra 15 years ago to enjoy the serenity and beauty of the area. When I purchased the land, the selling point of "abuts DNR land" was appealing. Maybe not any more. [.]

185. please! Not in Dekorra! [.]

186. 79 households in Dekorra 2 in Mudd Lake, No brainer! [.]

187. Too many households would be devastated if located at Dekorra site! [.]

188. I disapprove of the shooting range being at the Dekorra site. Constant gunshot noise will carry far because of the river, and we have property on both Oak Knoll and St. Lawrence Bluffs roads. Also, present on the DNR land are sand pits, part of Native American archeologic significance that need to be preserved.