

RON WYDEN  
OREGON

230 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5244  
(202) 224-1280 (TDD)

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3703

March 13, 2009

### COMMITTEES:

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I'm writing to ask for your help in resolving an unfortunate situation involving the dislocation of the local gun club from their longstanding shooting range near the Deschutes County city of Redmond, Oregon, and efforts to locate a new facility on land belonging to the Bureau of Land Management.

The problem started when the Redmond Rod and Gun Club was notified that their current location on county-owned land is being sold for economic development and community expansion. Forced to find a new location, the club formed an innovative partnership with regional law enforcement agencies and the Oregon Military Department and set their sights, if you will, on near-by BLM land for a new recreational shooting and training range that could also be used for military and law enforcement training.

Initially, local Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials encouraged the partnership as a positive way to avoid developing multiple, duplicative shooting ranges. With more than 75 percent of Deschutes County federally owned, there are few options for this type of facility. So, the BLM support and enthusiasm was welcome. Unfortunately, it was short lived. In December, the BLM notified the partnership that the proposed site would be both extremely expensive to consider – with costs borne by the proponents – and require from two to five years to approve.

Since learning of the BLM requirements, the National Guard and the Deschutes County Sheriff have begun investigating other options to serve their training needs. However, Redmond Rod and Gun Club remains interested in a training range near Redmond as do officials of the Redmond Police Department, Crook County Sheriff, and Prineville Police Department.

I am asking that you work with me, my staff and the Deschutes County government to identify and establish the best possible location on BLM land for this facility in the area between Redmond and Powell Butte, Oregon. The two-to-five-year time frame suggested by the BLM seems unreasonable to me given that these functions – military training, law enforcement training, and recreational shooting – are important, well-established uses on federal land in central Oregon. Of course, I stand ready to assist with the implementation of any conceptual agreement, should one be reached.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

700 NE MULTNOMAH ST  
SUITE 450  
PORTLAND, OR 97232  
(503) 326-7525

151 WEST 7TH AVE  
SUITE 435  
EUGENE, OR 97401  
(541) 431-0229

SAC ANNEX BUILDING  
105 FIR ST  
SUITE 201  
LA GRANDE, OR 97850  
(541) 962-7691

U.S. COURTHOUSE  
310 WEST 6TH ST  
ROOM 118  
MEDFORD, OR 97501  
(541) 858-5122

THE JAMISON BUILDING  
131 NW HAWTHORNE AVE  
SUITE 107  
BEND, OR 97701  
(541) 330-9142

707 13TH ST, SE  
SUITE 285  
SALEM, OR 97301  
(503) 589-4555

[HTTP://WYDEN.SENATE.GOV](http://wyden.senate.gov)

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER