

## TARGET SHOOTING IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

### STATE FOREST RULES & REGULATIONS

#### CHAPTER 21. § 21.65. Target Shooting

This Section of the State Forest Rules & Regulations prohibits target shooting "...except where authorized by the District Forester or a designee."

**Safety of the public, the shooter, and State Forest employees is the Bureau's prime concern.**

These guidelines are intended to provide direction for consistent interpretation and implementation of this Section among the twenty Forest Districts until further direction is provided.

**Acceptable Weapons** are limited to:

1. devices operated by air, chemical, or gas cylinder, such as pellet and BB guns, excluding paint-ball guns;
2. bows and arrows, blow guns or sling-shots;
3. crossbows if the individual possesses the PA Game Commission special permit to hunt with one;
4. firearms or other weapons allowed for hunting by the PA Game and Wildlife Code.

Unless a waiver is granted by the Division of Operations and Recreation, the following Site Standards must be met for any approval of a target location:

1. the shooting position and target must be at least 450 feet from any buildings unless the location is a leased campsite, in which case the shooting position and target must be at least 450 feet from any buildings not part of the lease.
2. the projectile's path from the shooting location to the target must not cross a road, an established trail, or waterway;
3. the ground surface at no more than 45 feet behind the target must be higher than the target to act as a backstop;
4. the view from the shooting position to the target, 100 feet either side of the target and at least 300 feet behind the target (unless obstructed by the ground surface), must be sufficiently open to allow users to observe anyone entering the shooting area.

**Target Specifications** must comply with the following:

1. targets must not be mounted on trees
2. targets must not be mounted more than 60 inches above the ground;
3. all targets must be stationary.

## **Target Shooting Implementation Guidelines**

The following **Restrictions** are **Conditions** of any permission given:

1. any shooter utilizing the site must meet all legal requirements for the weapon they are using.
2. any shooter utilizing the site must not be under-the-influence as defined by the PA Motor Vehicle Code;
3. the use of alcohol and/or drugs is prohibited during any shooting session;
4. shooting hours are the same as defined for daytime hunting in the PA Game & Wildlife Code.
5. other reasonable restrictions may be included.

A **responsible party** must be identified for each target site that is permitted. The standard "Release and Indemnification" form must be completed and signed by the District Forester or designee and the responsible party.

**Violation of any of the restrictions and/or specifications listed above, or the use of shooting practices or conditions normally considered unsafe by the Community of users of the weapon in use, as determined by the District Forester or designated representative, will result in withdrawal of permission for a target-shooting site.**