

Linville River Tract Shooting Range



Linville River Tract Shooting Range

- Agenda-
- -Presentation by North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Staff
 - -agency mission and purpose of range – Erik Christofferson
 - -game lands general information – Kip Hollifield
 - -sound study results – Mark Hamlett
 - -design and location – Steve Bailey
- -Receive public comments

Linville River Tract Shooting Range

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MISSION

To conserve North Carolina's wildlife resources and their habitats and provide programs and opportunities that allow hunters, anglers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation.

North Carolina Game Lands Program*

- To provide, protect, and actively manage habitats and habitat conditions to benefit aquatic and terrestrial wildlife resources
- To provide public opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, and other wildlife associated recreation (Primary Public Uses)
- To provide for other natural resource based public uses to the extent that such uses are compatible with the conservation of natural resources and can be employed without displacing primary users
- To provide an optimally sustainable yield of forest products where feasible and appropriate as directed by wildlife management objectives

*applies to game lands owned by the State and managed by N.C. Wildlife

Linville River Tract Shooting Range

- Why? –
- -Provide safe, controlled and organized access to sportsman and recreational shooters.
- -Decrease potential for litter and allow for lead reclamation.
- -Reduce random target practicing within game lands boundary and surrounding area.
- -ADA accessible shooting opportunities.
- -Funding - substantial rise of manufacturers excise tax due to increased ammunitions and firearms sales
- -NC Program vs Other states – examples.

Linville River Tract Shooting Range

- Process-
- -Received approval from Lands, Use and Access Committee of the Wildlife Commission to proceed with project in August of 2013.
- -Sound study was performed in September 2013
- -Public Meeting
- -Compile comments and present findings to Lands Use and Access Committee on August 27th, 2014.
- -Proceed with design and construction if approved by Committee.
- -2015 completion

Tract Acquisition History

- The Linville River Tract was purchased by the State of N.C. from Crescent Resources, LLC with grants from the Natural Heritage Trust Fund and the N.C. Ecosystem Enhancement Program in 2005.*
- The tract was entered into the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's Game Lands Program thereafter.

* Foothills Conservancy of N.C. assisted with the acquisition but did not donate the property to the State of N.C.

Acquisition Funding Sources

- The N.C. Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) grant was used to purchase acreage within 300 ft. of streams on the Linville River Tract (referred to as the “Restricted Area” in the deed).
- The Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF) grant was used to purchase the remainder of the tract.
- When NHTF funds are used, applicable tracts are required to be dedicated as State Nature Preserves by the N.C. Natural Heritage Program.
- Dedication of the Linville River Tract was initiated shortly after acquisition and was finalized in 2008.

Natural Heritage Dedication

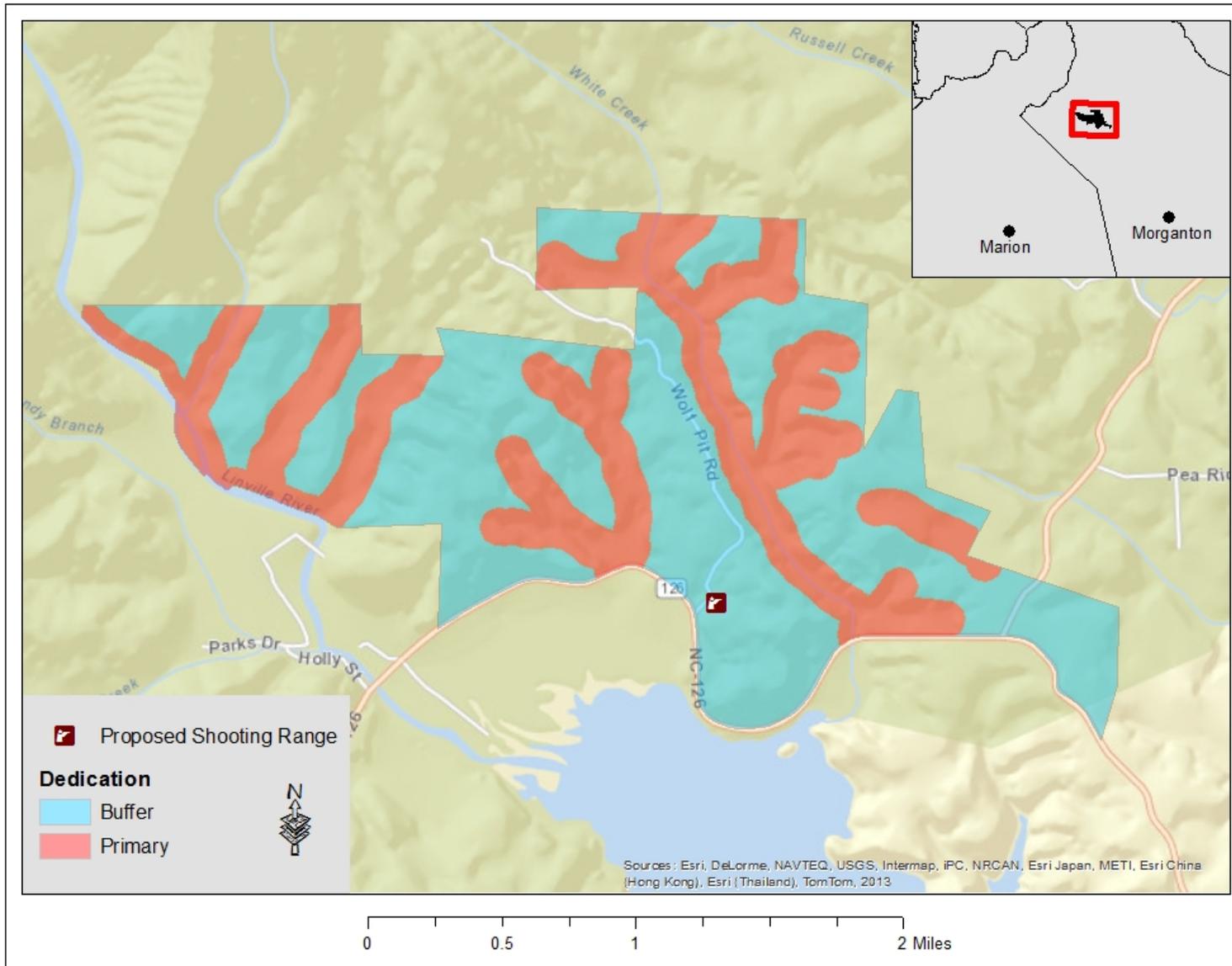
Primary Areas

- Very restricted
- Generally, no forest management or wildlife habitat development.
- No new roads are allowed and trail development is very restricted.
- Acreage purchased with EEP grant is dedicated as “Primary” on the Linville River Tract

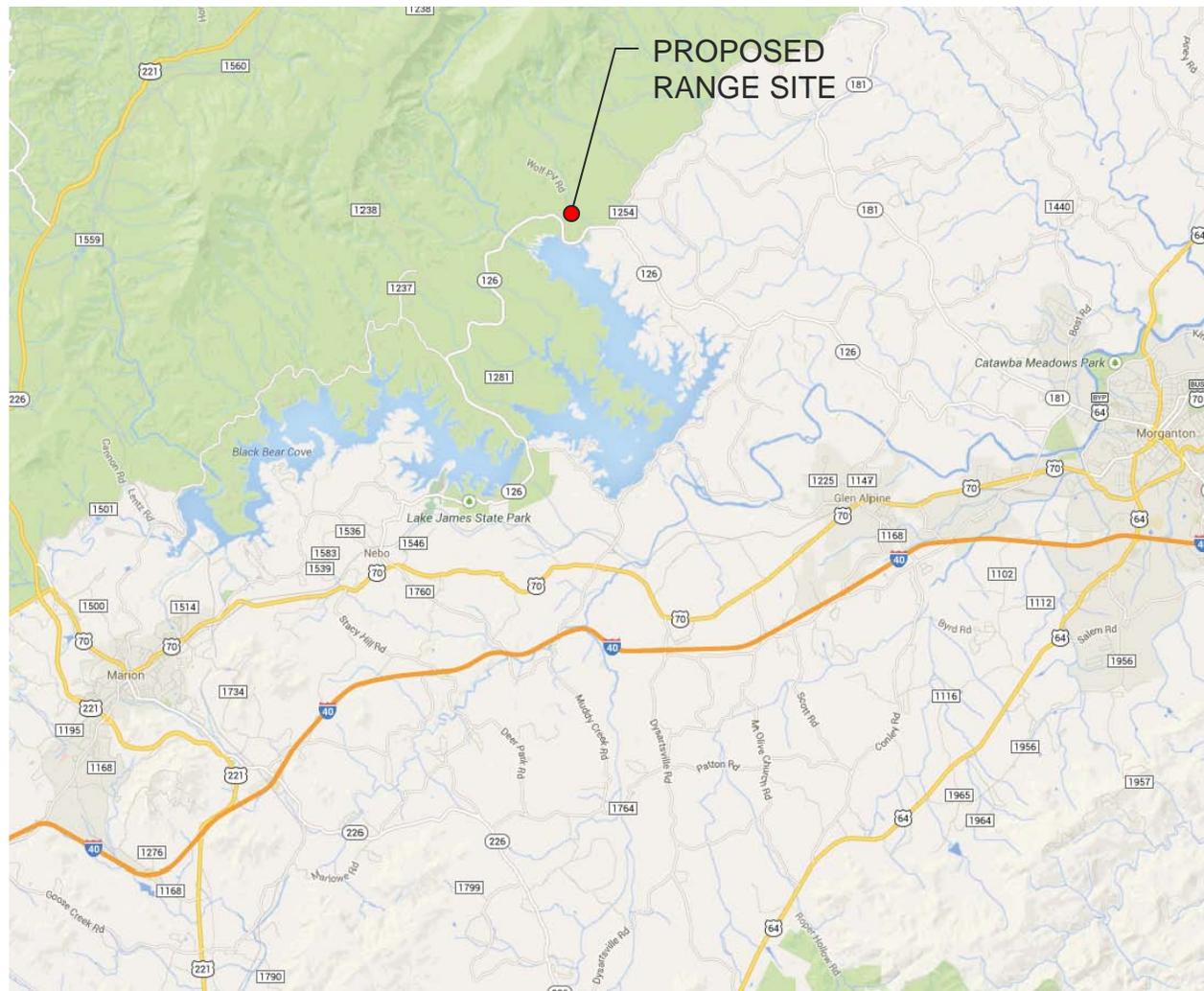
Buffer Areas

- Most land management activities are allowed
 - Wildlife habitat improvements
 - Improvements to support recreational opportunities
- Acreage purchased with NHTF grant is dedicated as “Buffer” on the Linville River Tract
- The proposed shooting range location lies within the “Buffer” and was approved by the N.C. Natural Heritage Program.

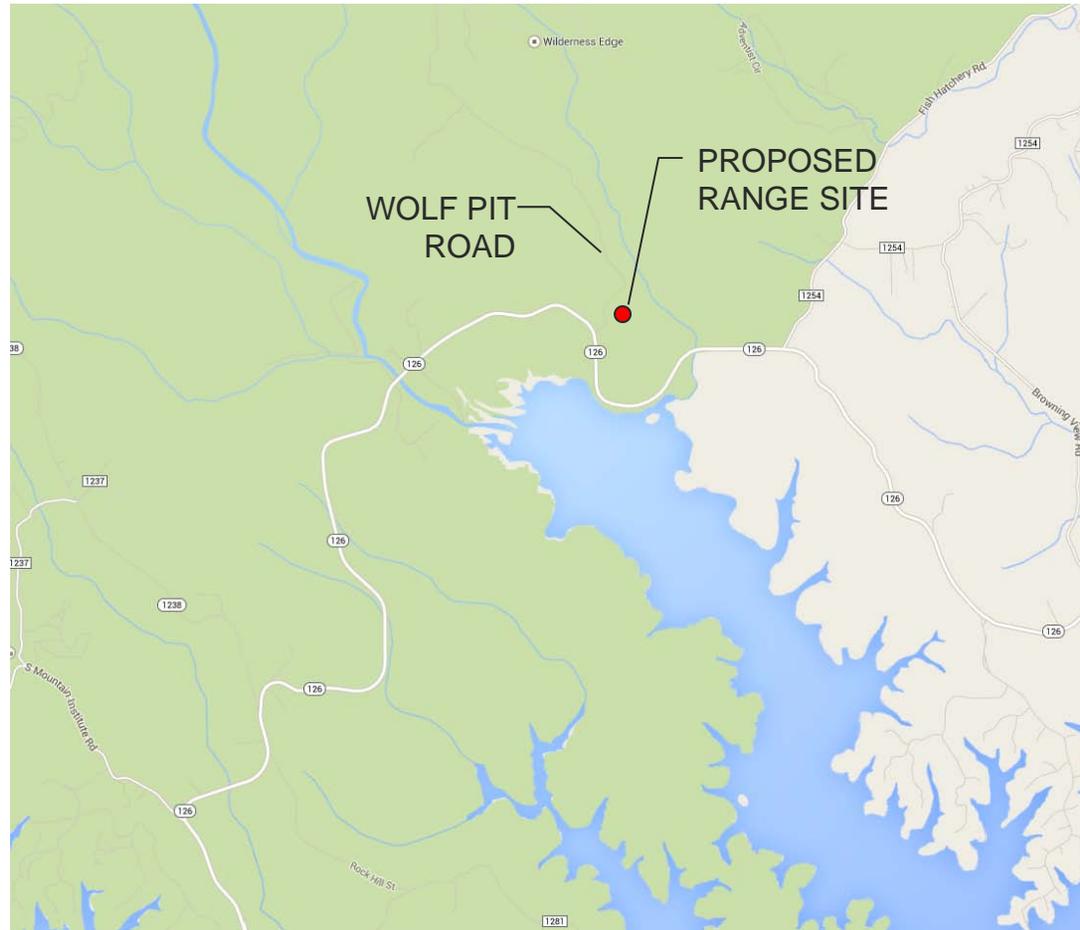
Natural Heritage Dedication Linville River Tract, Pisgah Game Land



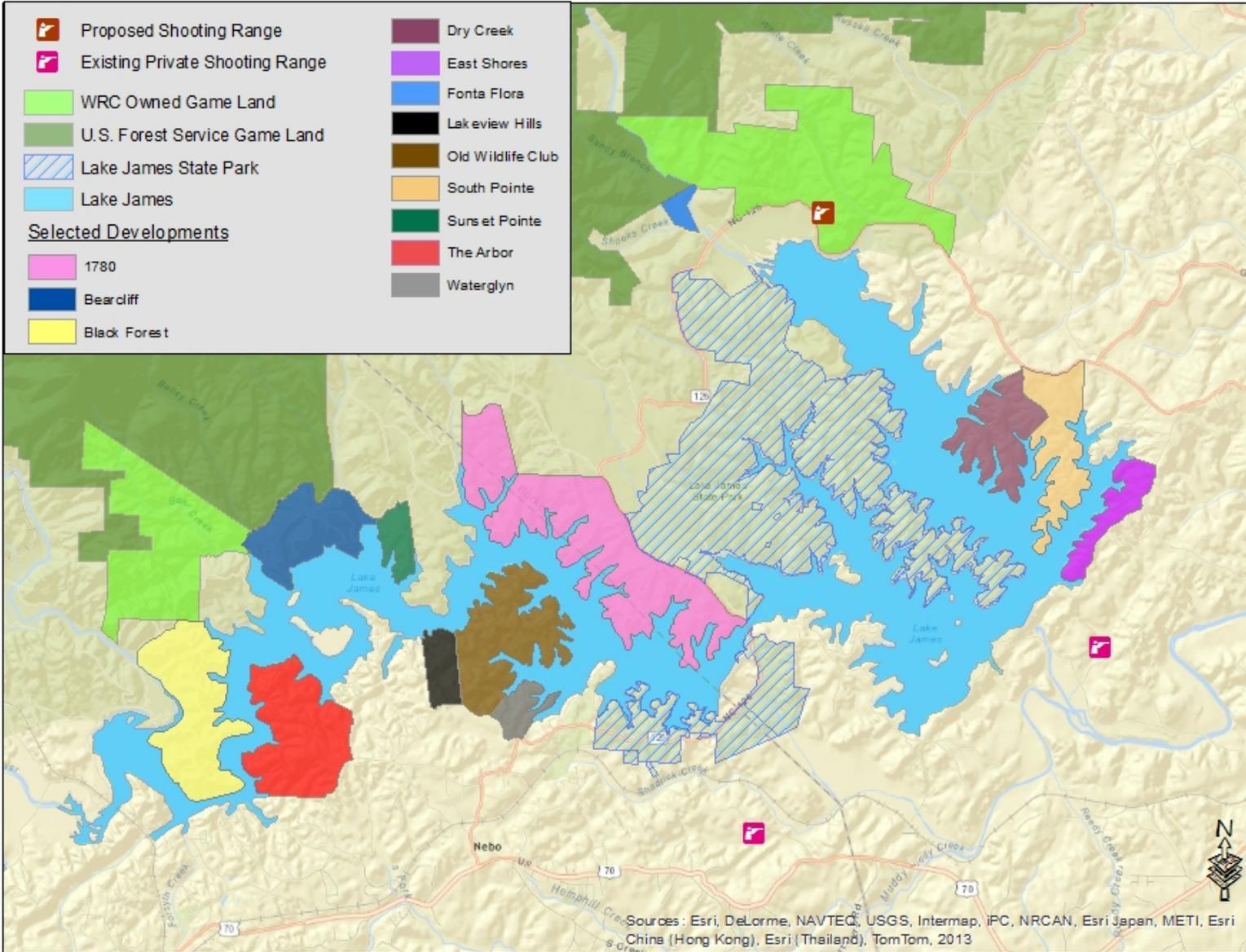
General Site Location



[General Site Location]

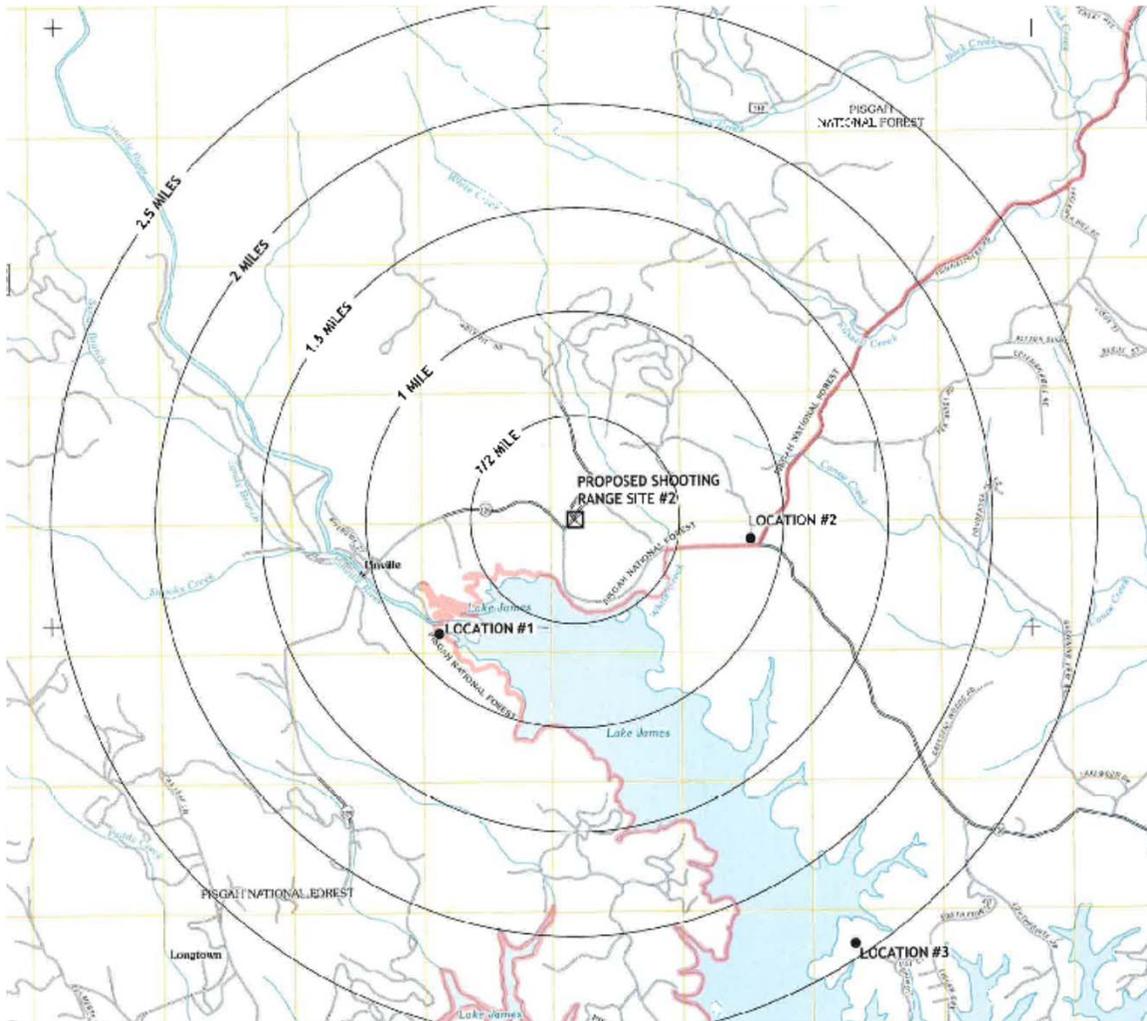


Proposed Shooting Range Location, Linville River Tract, Pisgah Game Land



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, IPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013

[Sound Study]



Three testing locations

- Pistols
- Shotguns
- Rifles

[Sound Study]

- Location #1
 - Ambient background noise: 55-64 db
 - Nearby lawnmower: 74 db
 - Nearby boat: 75 db
 - Overhead aircraft: 80 db
 - Pistol: Maximum 63 db
 - Shotgun: Maximum 63 db
 - Rifle: Maximum 66 db

[Sound Study]

- Location #2
 - Ambient background noise: 51-64 db
 - Vehicle Traffic: 85 db
 - Pistol: Maximum 63 db
 - Shotgun: Did not register due to vehicle traffic
 - Rifle: Maximum 66 db

[Sound Study]

- Location #3
 - Ambient background noise: 56-59 db
 - Nearby Boat: 73 db
 - Nearby Birds: 74 db
 - Nearby Leaves Blowing: 74 db
 - Pistol: Did not register
 - Shotgun: Did not register
 - Rifle: Maximum 62 db

[Sound Study - Conclusions]

- No evidence of disturbing sound levels (90-95 db) at any of the testing locations.
- The maximum sound levels created by the weapons shooting are indistinguishable from other sound levels recorded during the testing period.
- At two locations, the maximum sound levels recorded occurred while no firing was taking place. At the third location, the maximum sound level was recorded during shooting, but the sound was due to vehicle traffic.

Proposed Range Conceptual Drawing



[Flintlock Valley Range]



[Flintlock Valley Range]

