



POWDER CREEK NEWS

Newsletter of
Powder Creek Shooting Park
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Issue 22 Fall 2005

President's Pennings

Al Gehrt, Chairman

Powder Creek's General Meeting was held on September 12th. During the meeting, Mike Jones and Mark Marek were elected to your Board of Directors, replacing Rob Wolfe, who moved to Indiana, and Greg Moats, who chose not to stand for re-election. My personal thanks and gratitude to both Rob and Greg for the contributions they made during their tenure as Board members. I also look forward with eager anticipation to having both Mike and Mark as new Board members, the fresh perspective they bring to the table, and the contributions they can make to the overall good of the Powder Creek Shooting Park. Both Rick Goetz and Phil Gehrt were re-elected for another term to the Board.

October Board Meeting. Rick Goetz was elected to the First Vice-Chairman position; Phil Gehrt to the Second Vice-Chairman position; Mike Jones to the Third Vice-Chairman position; and Earl Tjaden was elected to the position of Treasurer. I am grateful to my wife, Sue, for once again allowing me the opportunity to serve as the Chairman for one more "final" year, as well as to my fellow Board Members who saw fit to elect me to that position.

What an exciting and challenging year it has been at Powder Creek. We have made many significant accomplishments on the never-ending journey of facility improvements. New fences have been constructed on the skeet and trap fields. A new deck has been added to the sporting clays course. And most notably, new lighting and water lines have been added to the trap and skeet fields for enhanced evening and night-time shooting opportunities. I was absolutely delighted to witness the overwhelming generosity of many Powder Creek members who stepped forward and supported the lighting and water project with financial and/or sweat contributions. My

Election of officers followed during the

personal thanks to each for making these improvements a reality.

Revenues are up. At the end of September, total revenues were up more than \$44,068, or 12%, over 2004, which also happened to be a record year. Sporting clays, the flagship of our shooting disciplines, is up \$17,144, or 16%; trap is up \$15,065, or 19%; and supply sales are up \$19,672, or 30%. Our overall financial position is strong. Our only indebtedness remains the loan for the Caterpillar and the note for part of the construction costs for the lighting and water project, which should be paid off by January of 2006.

The successes we enjoyed during the past year were no fault of mine, but rather the combined efforts and selfless dedication of Dan Buie, the Powder Creek Staff, and your Board of Directors. Dan has been with us now for a year-and-a-half, Tamala about that long, and I've lost track of how long Karen has been with us. These folks truly are the engine that moves Powder Creek forward in day-to-day operations. My personal thanks to each of you and the fine cadre' of trappers Dan has assembled and trained!

Your Board of Directors has been integral to many of the improvements that have been made over the last year. Over the past several years, your Board of Directors has evolved into a more action-oriented rather than a more traditional over-sight role. While Dan and his troops are responsible for the day-to-day operations and maintenance, your Board Members have taken on the responsibility for construction and special

projects. The results are that we get a lot more accomplished at considerable cost savings to the Club. These engaged Board Members have made my job much easier and I would like to recognize several of them.

Earl Tjaden, our Treasurer, is the brains behind this operation. Earl ensures that we maintain a tight, conservative fiscal policy. Earl is a great thinker and I am grateful for his counsel.

John Francis has made our Sporting Clays Course what it is today. John is an accomplished shooter, soon to receive his Level III NSCA Instructor's certification, and probably spends more time promoting Powder Creek than anyone else on the Board. When there's a corporate event going on at Powder Creek, chances are that John is behind it.

Greg Moats has been the driving force behind the publication of our newsletter. I lack words to either adequately or accurately describe Greg, other than he most likely lived his previous life as Robert Ruark or Teddy Roosevelt. I have the greatest respect and admiration for Greg. He is a quiet thinker and a man of few words, but those words certainly warrant heeding. Greg, too, is good counsel. Greg, I will miss your presence on the Board.

Larry Hicks is a good ol' farm boy out of Oklahoma – an impeccable skeet shooter. When it comes to physical work, I'd hate to have to match stride with Larry day in and day out. Larry is also the President of the Kansas State Skeet Shooting Association and they are fortunate to have Larry as their leader.

Through his boundless energy, Larry has brought about many much needed improvements in our skeet facilities to where they are the best in the mid-west.

Rick Goetz has taken on many special projects on behalf of the Board over the last year. He has a keen analytical business mind and I value his judgment immensely. If anyone has a vision for the future of our club matched with the tenacity and the skills to make that vision a reality, it's Rick.

Finally, Phil Gehrt. Many think we're twins – we're close. Phil wears many hats at Powder Creek. He has served as our 2nd Vice Chairman, filled the role of the Secretary over the past year, served as Trap Director, headed up the SCTP program, both at Powder Creek and for the State of Kansas, and serves unofficially as our turf manager. I enjoy doing many of the construction projects at the Club with Phil as much as anything, but also enjoy hitting the Kansas and Missouri State Trap Shoots and the Missouri Fall Handicap with Phil and his son, JP.

Powder Creek would not be what it is today without the tireless efforts and selfless service and dedication of these individuals. Next time you see them, tip your hat and say "Thanks." I certainly do.

Finally, Tim Bruggeman, a familiar face on both the trap and skeet fields, headed up the effort to put on a benefit shoot on October 15th in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Through Tim's efforts, more than \$1,200 was raised through the generosity of shooters participating in the event. This

certainly puts shooters in a favorable light, as well as Powder Creek. Tim, thanks for your efforts!

In the next several weeks, we will be putting together our budget for 2006, including capital improvement projects. Much of the effort in 2005 was expended on the trap and skeet fields lighting and water projects. In 2006, I will be pushing hard for several enhancements on the Sporting Clays Course.

The Powder Creek Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 10th, at the Lenexa Community Center. Mark it on your calendar. After last year's participation, we decided the clubhouse was no longer adequate to hold this popular event. Mac McMeins is once again coordinating this event, as he so ably did last year. If you are interested in donating something for the drawings, please get in touch with Mac.

Finally, the holiday season is rapidly approaching. Please, take some time out of your busy schedules to spend time with family and friends, and to give thanks for all of the blessings we, as Americans, enjoy, especially our freedom. While you're at it, say a prayer for

Manager's Notes

A Place to Shoot

Dan Buie

Another season has passed here at Powder Creek. The summer shooting season is winding down and the fall hunting season is beginning. The summer was a good one this

year. Shooting was up in all clay target venues this year. We started the summer off with the Eastern Zone Trap Shoot, that was followed by the Summer Time Open Skeet Shoot, which was won with a State Record high of 399x400. Shot by our very own Troy Adams. Both of these shoots were great experiences for the club. We threw lots of targets and had lots of smiling faces. We've had four great sporting clays shoots over the summer, one of which was our first two day shoot. These were all great successes, with the number of shooters growing. We hosted the State Skeet Shoot here for the first time. This shoot went off well, with our club winning 5 of the 7 championships. With all of the competition shooting going on we also held the Summer Trap League that held 17 teams this year. That's 4 more teams than we had in 2004's Summer Trap League. We also hosted 27 special events this year, such as corporate events where groups came out and rented the trap or skeet or sporting clays courses for a few hours to do private competitions or team building activities. Anyone who is interested in doing something like this can feel free to contact the office for more information, and we can help you set this up. With all of the shooting going on this summer the board, with the tireless efforts of a few of the Black & Veatch Skeet League members, who are also members of Powder Creek, took on what is probably going to be the biggest project to date for Powder Creek. They designed and had installed a water line to keep the fields watered and all new lights and electricity to the fields. With all new fences that run the length of the Skeet and Trap fields, with fences running to access to all of the Skeet field houses. I would like to

give a personal thanks to Mark Marek, Larry Hicks, Al, Phil, and J.P. Gehrt, Larry Poore, Don Stevens, Paul Norton, Kent Toughton, all the guys from Black & Veatch that helped out, and Brad Goodart and his crew for making this project a success. I would like to invite all of you to come and shoot under these lights this fall, I think you will be surprised at how well you can see under these lights. They will make shooting on Tuesday and Friday nights a lot more enjoyable than what it has been in the past. It has been one busy summer around the club, but we continue to throw more targets and

The Trap Report

Phil Gehrt

The trap year is winding down, and it's time to review what we accomplished in 2005, and to plan for 2006.

2005 saw significant improvements made to the trap fields. As you have noticed by now, we put new lighting behind all four fields – night shooting has never been better at Powder Creek! We put a new wood fence the length of the fields, water service on each field, and buried all overhead power lines. Finally, the trap fields themselves continue to be well maintained by Dan and his staff, and look great.

Our trap programs have seen a lot of interest again this year. Powder Creek hosted six registered shoots, including the Kansas Eastern Zone Shoot, and interest in shooting registered targets has increased over previous years. Attendance at these shoots averaged 40 shooters; this is a big boost in participation levels. Powder Creek sponsored three leagues again this year; Spring, Summer and Fall; and

participation in all three leagues has seen approximately 17 teams competing. Finally, Powder Creek's Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) remained strong, with 28 junior and senior-high school students participating. This continues to be a great program for introducing youngsters to the shooting sports, and I appreciate the support provided by Powder Creek.

What is planned for 2006? We want to continue to encourage shooter participation by throwing good targets in a safe and friendly environment. Powder Creek has scheduled seven registered shoots, beginning in April and ending in October. We will also sponsor league shooting, similar to the three leagues held this year. Another SCTP team? You can count on it. In addition, we are also gathering ideas for fun shoots that can be held throughout the year. If you have any ideas, please let me know.

What can you do for Powder Creek? It's simple – support your Club. If you shoot registered targets, come join us for a day of fun competition. Already shoot in a league? Form a team and sign up in one of Powder Creek's leagues. Trying to think of a new corporate outing? Talk to Dan or Tamela and bring your business or social group out to Powder Creek. You will be pleasantly surprised at the popularity of these outings.

I appreciate your support as Trap Director, and welcome any comments or suggestions you might have that will make our Club a better place to shoot. I spend a lot of time on the trap fields – please make it a point to introduce yourself.

Skeet Report

Larry Hicks



It has been a great year for the Skeet program at Powder Creek. While we only held two registered skeet shoots, both turned out to be record setting.

The Summer Time Open was held over the July 4th weekend. We had 59 four-gun shooters participate in this registered shoot. This was the largest registered tournament ever held at Powder Creek. Not only was it record setting for the largest number of shooters, but it was record setting for the highest number of targets broken in a 400 target shoot. Our own Troy Adams broke 399 out of the 400 targets. When you see Troy, congratulate him.

The second record setting shoot for Powder Creek this year was the Kansas State Shoot. This was the first year that Powder Creek had ever hosted the yearly event. Powder Creek members won the Gun Champ title in each and every event. The winners are as follows:

Doubles	Larry Hicks
12 gauge	Troy Adams
20 gauge	Jerod Hicks
28 gauge	Brad Goodart

410 gauge	Jerod Hicks
HOA	Jerod Hicks
HAA	Larry Hicks

and run for six weeks.

Everyone interested in shooting the doubles league keep a lookout on the bulletin board for the sign up sheet.

Powder Creek members also won four of the Kansas State seven Gun Champ runner-up titles. They are as follows:

20 gauge runner-up	Vicki Stevens
410 gauge runner-up	Larry Hicks
HOA runner-up	Larry Hicks
HAA runner-up	Jerod Hicks

The fall skeet league is now in full progress. We have 45 shooters registered for this league. The league will run for ten weeks. It is in Powder Creek's plans to have a winter doubles league. It is anticipated that the doubles league will begin in early November

Sporting Clays

John Francis
Sporting Clays Director

Well, it's been quite a year on the sport course out at Powder Creek. Many new shooters have tackled our challenging targets in practice and in competition. Our tournament shooters have come into their own this year with many impressive scores shot throughout the state. Several of our "regulars" have moved up in their National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA) classes by winning events. Congratulation goes out to Bruce Payne, Phil Gibbs, Doc DeStefano, Gary Walstrom, Kevin Jacobson, Jack Parks, and many more that had an outstanding year of shooting and represent Powder Creek like it is home.

The Nationals was held in San Antonio a few weeks ago and the Kansas shooters faired very well. I was unable to attend this year due to Hurricane Katrina and the deployment of 10 of my co-workers. We will be sending more help in the next few weeks to the effected areas along the gulf coast so if you don't see me around the club then you know where I will be.

With the bird season just around the corner we are seeing a large influx of new shooters on the course. They are getting in the needed practice for many days in the field. If you meet up with any of these new shooters



please make them feel at home and help them learn the game of sporting clays. Training for bird season is no different than Tiger Woods going to the driving range. We all must remain sharp and focused while in the field to make our hunts more enjoyable.

We plan to make several improvements next year on the course. I was hoping that some of these would already be in operation but the light project was a higher priority. We will construct another deck to shoot from and I hope it will be located at station one. Dan and I will get a portable tower or two so we can throw elevated targets and driven birds which will improve the target quality on the course. Other improvements include new gun racks and benches.

We have three more registered shoots this year and I encourage anyone that is thinking about joining the NSCA to come out and shoot either as a registered participant or in Hunters Class. This will be a good way to evaluate your shooting ability with others. Remember new shooters that have not shot in competition before start out in "D" class and move up or down depending on their shooting in that class. It's a lot of fun and I have made many friends over the years by shooting these events. If you have any questions about the NSCA and shooting in registered tournaments please don't hesitate to ask me.

One last note, I want to thank CZ-USA and Robert Brodgen for the great sponsorships this year. You have provided us with great prizes and added monies to make our tournament year one of the best in the area. We are so lucky to have a partnership with these great folks. Show them your

support when considering that new gun or truck.

John Francis

Wingshooting Tips

It won't be long now and we will be comparing notes on which area of the state had the most pheasants or quail on opening weekend. And I'm sure there will be many stories coming from the duck blind or goose pit. I have been very busy preparing for the season by shooting the hunting guns and leaving the target gun in the vault. Don't make the dreaded mistake of not shooting your bird gun until opening day you won't be happy with the results.

One of the first things a hunter should do in preparation to improve their live-bird shooting is to practice their gun mount. More birds wild and clay are missed due to poor gun mount than anything else. Most hunters don't have their head on the stock and look above the barrel as they watch the bird. You can practice your gun mount at home in front of a mirror. Keeping the master eye in line with the bead during a smooth slow mount and make sure you have a one piece mount with equal grip pressure. This will keep the muzzle from going up and down while trying to stay on the bird. At home look at your crown molding and pretend that a bird is flying across the molding. With the muzzle pointing at the molding and the butt stock under your armpit slowly move with the imaginary bird as you come to a full mount. Do this several times a day in all directions and you will see a noticeable difference in the field.

Becoming an “instinctive” shooter is a question I here many times a year from my students. Learning to shoot a shotgun is like learning to play the piano. When you first start playing the piano you have to look at the keys to know where to put your fingers but once you begin to feel where the keys are you begin to play subconsciously or “instinctively”. With the shotgun you will become familiar with its operation and its balance in your hands. Then you will find the right gun mount for your style of shooting. After you train your eyes to focus on the target you will no longer be measuring each shot by looking at the bead at



the end of the barrel. 100% focus on the bird with a solid move, mount, shoot and you will be instinctively filling you daily bag limit and making your hunting partners jealous.

One last tip before I close. If your in the field with pointing dogs and you have a point walk in to bust the covey with your guns muzzle about shoulder height and your eyes above the dog. So many hunters approach their dog with the gun pointed straight up or down and

the eyes are fixed on the ground in front of the dog. We rarely see the birds while they are hiding from us in the field. Our eyes need to be in a place where we can obtain that 100% focus. Birds will cover 15 to 25 yards on us if we are looking at the ground before we can focus and pick one out. With the eyes up you will be shooting the birds before they reach 25 yards.

I am always available if you have a question about your shooting, hunting, or gun issues. Call me or stop me at the club I will do what I can to help make your outing more enjoyable. I will be in San Antonio taking the NSCA Level III instructors class in November. This trip will be my final certification class and I hope to come back with more ideas for the

Powder Creek Cowboys

**Tame Bill
aka Stuart Barber**

Come out join and the fun!

Cowboy Action Shooting is a game of fantasy gun-fighting during the wild and woolly days of Wild Bill Hickok, Jesse James & Wyatt Earp. Not just the men either. Calamity Jane's, Annie Oakley's and Belle Starr's are right beside them. These colorful figures of the past are seen the second Saturday of every month right here at Hodgdon's Powder Creek Cowboy Action Shooting Range.

Cowboy Action Shooting is a three gun competition utilizing two single action revolvers and pistol caliber lever action rifle and shotgun.

The firearms are those typical of what was used on the Western Frontier from about 1860 to the turn of the century.

Cowboy Action Shooting is not a fast draw style of competition. You will find movement and plenty of action when using all three styles of firearms during target engagement.

Our shooting sport is designed for all levels of shooters. Targets are generous in size and placed at such proximity that the difficulty or challenge you face is the speed in which you engage the course of fire. However, we all learn soon enough that no target is too big or too close that it can't be missed.

The great success of our club can be attributed to many reasons. None are more significant than that it is a family oriented, recreational activity and that it is so much FUN. Shooters compete and enjoy the sport at all skill levels, it is NOT mandatory to shoot well or to win in order to have FUN with the Powder Creek Cowboys. This attitude promotes the values we refer to as the "Spirit of the Game," and is perhaps best shown by the friends made while sharing our mutual appreciation of what is the legend of America's most colorful and exciting period...The Kansas Frontier West!

Pistols used for our main match competition are single action revolvers. Separate classes for percussion (cap & ball), black powder cartridge and smokeless cartridge shooting allow broad use and choice of styles.

Rifles and carbines are the lever or slide action style of the frontier period in a "pistol" caliber; many prefer the same caliber they use in their pistols.

Shotguns used are any side by side, without automatic ejectors, with or without exposed hammers, with one or two triggers. Any lever action shotgun may be used. Any pump shotgun with an exposed hammer such as the Winchester Model 1897 and the Marlin Model 16.

One of the characteristics of Cowboy Action shooting is the costuming. Many of our shooters have found this to be one of the most interesting and fun parts of the sport. Clothing and accoutrements from the old west era, the turn of the century and the silver screen cowboy films provide a wide variety from which to choose.

If you haven't already caught the Cowboy Action Shooting Bug why don't you

<p>The Rifle Range</p> <p>.....Joe Orr</p>
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The rifle and pistol ranges are doing fine. Could use a couple of range masters. Any volunteers ?

A big thanks to Jerry Chatam of J.Chatam and Associates for donating and installing 35 new target backer boards on both ranges.

As hunting season nears, business is really picking up. Don't wait too long to get

The future of hunting

.....Greg Moats

Newsday.Com ran an article that should concern all of us.

By ANGIE WAGNER
Associated Press Writer

March 10, 2005, 2:19 PM EST

"As a teenager, Bryan Dinkins and his grandfather would go out before dawn on many a winter morning to hunt duck. They would quietly discuss school and life while waiting for the birds.

Dinkins, now 40, hasn't been hunting in six years. He's too busy, he says, and anyway it would take six hours to drive somewhere to hunt ducks in California.

It's a common lament in the new century, a time when urbanization and hectic lives can get in the way of hunting traditions. Hunting now is not just about when to go, but where to go? How much will it cost? And, more than ever, who will go?

"If we think about how the country was explored and developed, it was hunters, it was trappers," said Steve Williams, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "If we lost that, I think in some way we lose part of the American character."

Across the country, the number of hunters declined from 14.06 million to 13.03

million, or 7.3 percent, from 1991 to 2001, according to the Census Bureau and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The drop was greater in the West -- 9.6 percent, from 2.46 million to 2.22 million.

Hunting has survived through generations by fathers passing the tradition on to their children, and families bonding during hunting trips. But many people have given up on hunting, or never tried it at all.

The decline in Western hunters came even as the population jumped. California had the largest drop -- from 446,000 to 274,000, or 38.6 percent -- followed by Colorado, Arizona and Nevada. Washington, Wyoming, Oregon and Hawaii had slight declines.

Most hunters said in the 2001 Census and in the Fish and Wildlife survey that they did not hunt as much as they would have liked because they were too busy or had family or work obligations. The reasons were the same for those who gave up hunting altogether, another study found.

As the West becomes more urban, with new residents flocking to cities like Las Vegas and Phoenix, development inevitably leads to fewer hunting lands.

"A generation or so ago, it was still possible to take a son and daughter out to the country, knock on a farmer's door and be out in the field hunting in pretty short order," said George Cooper, spokesman for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

"That's how young people got into hunting. Loss of habitat due to sprawl and landowner worries about liability have made that sort of old-fashioned access hard to come by," he said.

Those who rely on private land often find they must pay for the privilege, and it can be expensive. Duck hunting for the season may cost \$10,000 on a private hunting preserve.

Eventually, it will be up to children to carry on the tradition. But a study by Responsive Management, a public opinion research firm for natural resources issues, found if people are not exposed to hunting before they are 16 or 17, they likely will not hunt as adults.

And the more people grow up in urban areas, the less likely they are to be exposed to the hunting culture, said Mark Damian Duda, executive director of the group.

"That's the big, broad demographic trend that's taken its toll on hunting," he said.

Many states are promoting hunting by sponsoring outreach programs and youth hunts.

But the state fish and wildlife agencies that are working to recruit and retain hunters face their own threats. Most depend on hunting license sales for money, and as the number of hunters drops, programs are cut and jobs are left unfilled.

California is suffering the worst. The game warden staff has been cut by 25 percent over the last few years; budgets for wildlife managers have been slashed; maintenance is lacking.

"We had counties where we didn't even have a warden present," said Lorna Bernard, spokeswoman for the California Department of Fish and Game.

It's a delicate relationship that hunters and state agencies share. States depend on hunters to help fund their conservation projects and to control animal populations.

"Traditionally, the people that have paid for and cared for wildlife have been hunters and anglers," said Steve Huffaker, director of Idaho Fish and Game and past president of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

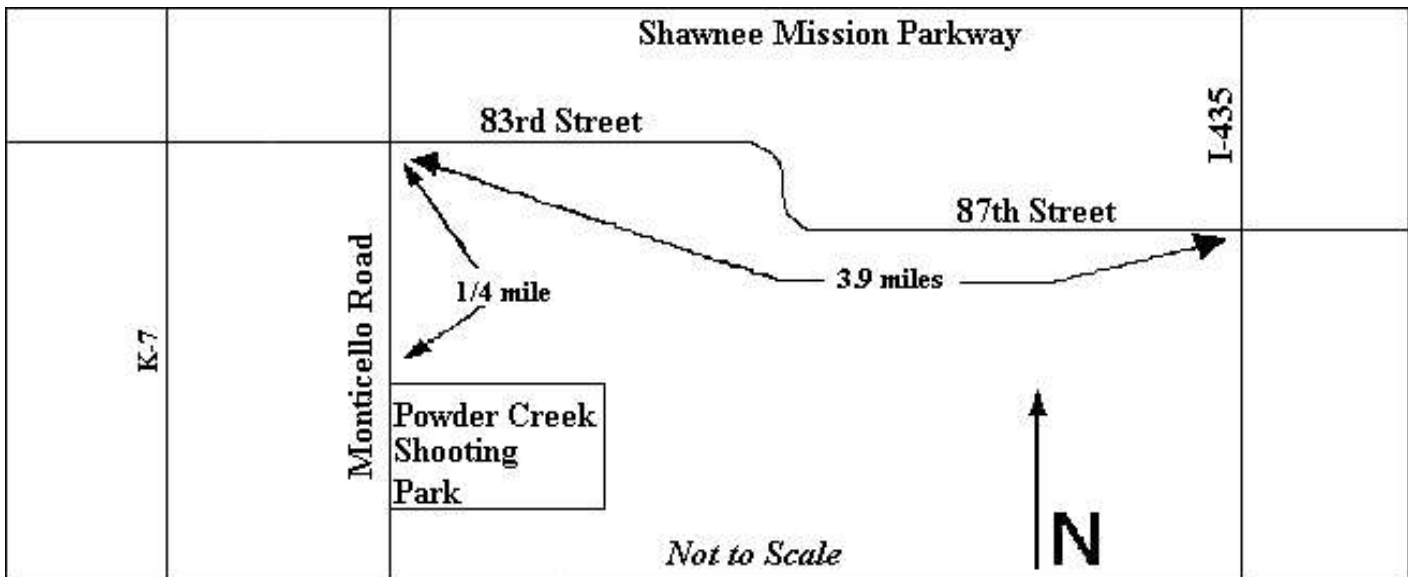
"If we lose that support base, then we're concerned who's going to be there to take up the needs of fish and wildlife in the future," he said."



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POWDER CREEK SHOOTING PARK

A GREAT PLACE TO SHOOT

