

Article I. Establishment Procedures

8.50.010 Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to establish a process for the establishment of “no shooting areas” in unincorporated Jefferson County and to provide regulation of the discharge of firearms in such areas as provided in this chapter [Ord. 3-95§ 1].

8.50.020 Prohibited

It is unlawful for any person to discharge firearms in a no shooting area established by Jefferson County. This chapter shall not abridge the right of the individual guaranteed by Article I, Section 24 of the State Constitution to bear arms in defense of self or others. [Ord. 3-95 § 1(1)]

8.50.030 Firearms defined

“Firearm,” as used in this chapter, shall include, but not be limited to, pistols, revolvers, shotguns and rifles. [Ord. 3-95 § 2]

8.50.040 Creation or dissolution of a no shooting area

(1) Petitions or requests for the creation of a no shooting area or dissolve an existing no shooting area by Jefferson County board of commissioners shall be filed with the clerk of the board of commissioners. The petition or request must be based on a definable threat to the public health, safety and general welfare. Such petitions or requests may be:

- (a) A petition filed by residents. The petition shall contain the signatures of 25% of registered voters in the area under consideration.
- (b) A request filed by the county sheriff or a request filed by a county commissioner.
- (c) A request filed by county departments may be considered if:
 - (i) Density in an area is significant enough to warrant consideration for a no shooting area. The high density area must have definable boundaries.
 - (ii) County facilities or property are at risk. An area of up to 500ft from county offices or facilities may be considered.

(2) The petition, or request, must include a legal description of the proposed boundaries with: a map showing the proposed area, a written statement explaining the reasons for the petition, and a statement, where applicable, of reported incidence involving firearms in the petition area. A request based on density in an area does not require a written statement so long as the proposed no shooting area boundaries are defined concurrent with a densely populated area.(3) After petition signatures have been verified by the Jefferson County auditor-elections, or a request has been submitted by a county commissioner, sheriff or department, the Jefferson County board of commissioners shall set a date of hearing. Legal notice of the hearing shall be published one time in the official newspaper of the county at least 10 days prior to the hearing.

(4) If the county commissioners find the formation or dissolution of the petitioned area to be beneficial to the public health, safety and general welfare, the area shall be established or dissolved as a no shooting area by ordinance. The board of commissioners shall consider, but is not limited to considerations of the location, terrain and surrounding land use of the petitioned area. [Ord. 3-95 § 3] The board of commissioners shall determine the final boundaries for the creation of a no shooting area.

(5) Public Works may post signs along public roads indicating a no shooting area boundary where deemed necessary. The Department of Community Development shall inform development and permit applicants if a parcel is within a no shooting area.

8.50.050 Violations-Misdemeanors-Penalty-Arrest

(1) Any person discharging a firearm in a no shooting area is guilty of a misdemeanor. It shall not be a violation of this chapter when a person discharges a firearm in accordance with the provisions of RCW 9A.16.020.

(2) Any law enforcement officer having information to support a reasonable belief that a person has committed a violation of this chapter has the authority to arrest the person.

(3) The first offense for violation of this chapter constitutes a civil penalty not to exceed \$100.00. Consecutive offenses are punishable, upon conviction, by a fine not to exceed \$250.00 or by confinement in the county jail for a period of not more than 90 days. [Ord. 3-95 § 4]

8.50.060 Enforcement Officers and Procedures

Enforcement of this chapter may be by any state or county law enforcement officer, state game officer, or state fish and wildlife officer. All such enforcement officers are empowered to issue citations to and/or arrest without warrant persons violating this provisions of this chapter. Said enforcement officers may serve and execute all warrants, citations and other process issued by the courts.

In addition, mailing by registered mail of such warrant, citation or other process to the last known place of residence of the offender shall be deemed as personal service upon the person charged. Said enforcement officers may seize and hold as evidence the weapon and ammunition of any person violating the provisions of this chapter. [Ord. 3-95 § 5]

8.50.070 Interpretation

In the event any other county ordinance, whether or not codified, is in conflict with any of the terms of this chapter, the more stringent shall be construed as applicable. [Ord. 3-95 § 7]

8.50.080 Exemptions

The designation of a no shooting area shall not exclude:

- (a) The use of firearms by citizens pursuant to RCW 16.08.020 regarding dogs, or other animals, endangering livestock.
- (b) The lawful use of a firearm by a law enforcement officer in the performance of their duties.

- (c) The use of firearms to lawfully slaughter farm animals.
- (d) The lawful use of force by citizens.
- (e) The continued operation of legally established private or public gun club facilities or commercial shooting ranges which were established and operating prior to the enactment of the No Shooting Area or the development of indoor/underground ranges constructed in compliance with JCC 18.20.350 (8).