

September 5, 2019

Dan Williams

Teller County Planning Official

Teller County Planning Department

P.O. Box 1886

Woodland Park, Colorado 80866

RE: Lutheran Valley Retreat Special Use Permit File: Z17-0012

Dear Mr. Williams,

As a longtime member and supporter of Lutheran Valley Ranch and Lutheran Valley Retreat, I feel it necessary to express my concerns about the Special Use Permit that Lutheran Valley Retreat is applying for.

I do not have any issues with the plan to move and construct cabins, parking areas and Patti's Place.

However, I am opposed to the use of the existing shooting range. Following are the reasons for my opposition:

Compliance: If the plan is approved, the range will only be allowed to be used for 35 days per calendar year from May through December with shooting only between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. How does Teller County intend to make sure the range is only used for 35 days and only used during the stated hours? Will Teller County require a prior notice from Lutheran Valley Retreat stating which days the range will be used? Does Teller County require a trained, authorized person to be at the range during time the range is being used and if so, who would that be? How will Teller County be assured that no other individuals, including Lutheran Valley Ranch members will use the range whether knowingly or unknowingly?

Safety: Considering Lutheran Valley Retreat is primarily used for youth and young adult summer camps during the months of May through August and the remainder of the year is used for youth, and family ministry, will Teller County consider putting an age limit on use of the range? If so, I suggest that no one under the age of 18 is allowed to possess or use any firearm at the range on any of the 35 days of use even under parental guidance.

Environment: Since the Wildlife Impact Study did not have a baseline prior to the construction of the shooting range, I feel that any amount of firearm use will impact the wildlife found in and around Lutheran Valley Retreat. I don't know any animal, domestic or wild, that does not react in a negative way to the use of firearms.

Necessity vs Want: I question whether the firearm range is a necessity to continue the ministry and mission of Lutheran Valley Retreat or just a want of small group of people who enjoy the sport of shooting.

I do not consider this an anti-gun issue. I think the ramifications of a firearm range are a concern for everyone associated with Lutheran Valley Retreat, Lutheran Valley Ranch and surrounding communities. Recent events have shown that abiding by the rules is not a first priority for Lutheran Valley Retreat. Bearing in mind that Teller County has already had to enforce not one, but two *Cease and Desist Orders*, is Teller County willing to take the necessary steps to properly enforce the regulations imposed on a firearm range that has proven to be a problem? We can no longer be naïve to think that "nothing bad will happen here". It only takes one accident, one unforeseen incident, or one misfortunate event to prove that a firearm range can change the lives of many individuals for a long time.

Therefore, I request the denial for the Special Use Permit related to a firearms range on Lutheran Valley Retreat property.

Respectfully,

Kris Koops

Lutheran Valley Ranch Member

Lot 38