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Star- News

Shooting ordinance proposed – Rules would apply to two gravel pits on Warren Wagon Road

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An ordinance to ban the shooting of firearms at two gravel pits off Warren Wagon Road was proposed by Valley County Commissioners on Monday.

A public hearing is required for any changes to county ordinances. No hearing date was set on Monday, but commissioners intend to establish new shooting rules soon.

“I believe in owning your gun and having the ability to go use it, but these areas are so close to homes that it is becoming a health and safety issue,” said Commissioner Sherry Maupin.

Two gravel pits accessed by Green Gate Road off Warren Wagon Road have been used as shooting ranges for years.

Nearby residents complained to commissioners in August that the number of gunshots had become unbearable, citing nearly incessant gunfire lasting from morning until night on most summer days.

Several residents reported bullets striking close to their homes.

One roughly 56-acre pit is operated by the Idaho Transportation Department, and the other roughly 13-acre pit by Tom Meckel Sand & Gravel Inc. of McCall. Both are operated under leases from the Idaho Department of Lands to mine basalt for use in road construction.

The operators of both pits put up “no shooting” signs, but the shooting has continued.

The county is restricted on what regulations can be imposed on shooting firearms, Valley County Chief Deputy Prosecutor Brian Oakey told commissioners on Monday.

“It has to be based on either property damage or threat to personal injury,” Oakey said. “You can’t regulate based on noise or other things.”

The area in question is within the City of McCall Impact Area. Valley County has jurisdiction within that area to establish and enforce ordinances.