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Scouts do good turn for neighbors

They will move a shooting range on their ranch in Elbert after homeowners complained about noise.

By Carlos Illescas
The Denver Post

Part of the Boy Scout Law requires that a Scout be a friend to all.

They are apparently good neighbors too.

A Boy Scouts shooting range in Elbert County that had caused some neighbors to complain about noise from gunfire will be moved to a location farther from homes.

The Elbert County commissioners this week approved a special-use permit that will move the shooting range at Peacefully Valley Scout Ranch, on 3,300 acres south of Kiowa.

Jeff Herrmann, Scout executive

for the Denver Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, said the range will be moved from the southwest corner of the property to the middle, about 1¼ miles from the nearest residence.

"We did it largely as an accommodation to our neighbors," Herrmann said.

In 2007, the Scout group hosted a shooting tournament, and neighbors complained about the noise. They filed a lawsuit later that year, saying noise levels exceeded those allowed by state law.

The lawsuit has since been dropped without prejudice, Herrmann said, meaning the plaintiffs

could reopen it at any time.

"There will be no noise issues in the future," Herrmann said.

Some also complained that pellets from guns fired at the range were polluting nearby Kiowa Creek. The new range also will be farther from the creek, Herrmann said, which should address the issues that some had about possible contamination.

The attorney for the plaintiffs in the suit could not be reached for comment.

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