

# FACT SHEET



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## OUTDOOR ETHICS & SHOOTING SPORTS

The Izaak Walton League inspires outdoor enthusiasts to take personal responsibility for protecting the outdoors. Our outdoor ethics and shooting sports programs focus on educating and supporting ethical behavior among all outdoor users, particularly gun owners and hunters, to ensure the safety of others, protect the environment, and conserve fish and wildlife for future generations.

### TEACHING OUTDOOR ETHICS

Each year, the Izaak Walton League and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources host "Ethics In Action" workshops for hunting education instructors from all over the country. Featuring some of the nation's leading voices in hunter education and ethics, our workshops teach instructors how to incorporate outdoor ethics lessons into their hunter education classes—instilling the values of fair chase and the importance of conservation in a new generation of hunters.

### SUPPORTING SHOOTING RANGES ON PUBLIC LANDS

Protecting recreational shooting and hunting opportunities has long been part of the League's mission. By partnering with government agencies, the shooting sports industry, and other conservation organizations, the League helps to maintain access and promote responsible use of shooting ranges on public lands. For example, we serve as a member of the Public Lands Shooting/Hunting Roundtable, which is making it easier for shooting ranges to get permits to operate on public lands. We also offer technical assistance to ranges that are experiencing safety problems or user conflicts.

### MANAGING SHOOTING RANGES AT LEAGUE CHAPTERS

The Izaak Walton League's chapters own and operate more than 100 shooting ranges across the country, including archery, rifle and pistol, skeet, sporting clays, and trap ranges. These facilities are also used for firearms safety training, hunter education courses, and youth shooting programs. Many of our chapter's programs are endorsed by the National Rifle Association, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, and the Amateur Trapshooting Association.

With range ownership comes responsibility for both safety and environmental stewardship. In 2003, the League entered into an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Association of Shooting Ranges to promote environmental stewardship at our chapter shooting ranges, including the development of environmental stewardship plans. We host workshops teaching chapters how to write these plans and why they are important.

### LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR OUTDOOR ETHICS AND SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAMS

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