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PRESS RELEASE

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WELD COMMISSIONERS CELEBRATE COLLABORATION WITH FOREST SERVICE ON BAKER DRAW DESIGNATED SHOOTING AREA

WELD COUNTY, CO – When the U.S. Forest Service wanted to build a new shooting area on the Pawnee National Grassland, one of the first obstacles to tackle was building a road. Donations and grant funds were available to the Forest Service for the facility, which is designed for recreational shooting, but building the road to the facility would have limited the enhancements to the facility itself.



“The county was proud to step in and help make this part of the project possible,” said Commissioner Chairman Douglas Rademacher. “We have the Public Works staff and equipment so it only made sense that we help with the road portion of the Baker Draw Shooting area project.”

The one-mile stretch of road, near the intersections of Weld County Roads 96 and 63, needed significant improvements in order for the road to safely handle the anticipated traffic to the range.



“The county was prepared to foot the \$60,767.76 for improvements to the road, which was, in reality, little more than a path to the site designated for the shooting area,” said Commissioner Mike Freeman. “We were extremely pleased when both Anadarko Petroleum and Noble Energy offered to contribute \$20,000 each to the road project.”

The facility, which was completed late last fall, was the site of an official ribbon cutting May 13 with representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, the Weld County Commissioners Office, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the National Rifle Association present.

Top: Commissioners Mike Freeman and Douglas Rademacher at the ribbon cutting for the Baker Draw Shooting area on the Pawnee National Grassland. Bottom: Weld County assisted with the Baker Draw project by improving WCR 96 to the recreational shooting facility.

The site, according to the Forest Service press release, provides a facility specifically designed for recreational shooting. The release also reminds visitors that facilities are limited on the grassland and bringing water and sun screen are a must, as is having a full tank of gas in your car before arriving.

To find out more information about the Baker Draw Designated Shooting area, which is located approximately 19 miles east of Ault, please visit www.fs.usda.gov.

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