

COLORADO DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

CHATFIELD SRA DOG TRAINING/EXERCISE AREA  
Topic

October 31, 1983  
Date:

Gene Schmidt  
Prepared by:

*[Handwritten signature]*  
10/21/83

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*Approved*  
*11-18-83*

(I.) Purpose:

To consider a request from the Colorado Hunting Dog Association to establish a permanent training site at Chatfield SRA. The Hunting Dog Association has proposed that we look at two different areas for the purpose of dog training.

(II.) Background Information: (Includes chronological orientation of events, necessary maps, etc.)

See attached.

(III.) Discussion: (Includes options, alternatives, etc.)

See attached.

(IV.) Summary: (Recap of major points)

See attached.

*CC Gary B. Huntington*  
*FYI & file -*  
*11-18-83*  
*GR*

(V.) Staff Recommendation:

See attached.

*file*

(II.) Background Information:

At the September, 1982 Park Board meeting, the Board acted on previous presentations and requests from dog trainers. The Board approved temporary use of a pond near the river and south of the reservoir (site 1). This was to be utilized on a trial basis for a one-year period beginning in October, 1982.

Because of the extremely heavy and prolonged snow conditions and because flooding prevented access, this area has not received a representative amount of use. Use has been permitted on a weekday basis.

Development and management at Chatfield is all based on a 1972 Corps/DPOR Master Plan and this area is needing to be reassessed. DPOR is requesting funds to prepare such a plan in our 1984-85 Budget Request.

In addition, irrigators, elected officials, the Corps and other water agencies are considering the potential to store water in Chatfield. This would cause major changes in existing and proposed uses at Chatfield.

(III.) Discussion:

There are four options for the Board to consider:

1. Do not permit this activity to occur at Chatfield at any location. Staff considered this alternative because of the extremely small amount of users associated with the activity and the demand for recreation space. Throughout this year, the Division and the Board have considered requests for a variety of activities such as the balloonport, gliding, radio-controlled model boats and planes, etc. Staff and Board have considered how many of these activities the Division is obligated to accommodate while still balancing our obligations to meet the need of the major recreation activities and accommodating needs for open space.
2. Establish the activity at the site used for the trial period (site 1). Disadvantages of this area include:
  - a. Distance to area from existing parking.

- b. Lack of sanitation.
  - c. Poor management control.
  - d. Unlawful entry from Highway 75.
  - e. Conflict with existing wildlife.
3. Establish the activity near the Division's Maintenance yard at Waterton near the Platte River. Disadvantages of this area include:
- a. Several miles out of normal patrol route.
  - b. No present parking area available.
  - c. Division would have to create a self-service collection point for users, thus creating another public access to Chatfield SRA.
  - d. Much the same habitat as site 1, so it would contain many of the same conflicts with existing wildlife.
  - e. Horse trails in the area.
  - f. Lack of existing management plan for this area.
4. Establish the activity below Chatfield Dam near the Cottonwood Grove parking area (site 2). Ponds in this area were created during the construction of the Dam but did not ever hold water. Now the Chatfield fish holding base circulates water through several of these ponds. Advantages of this area include:
- a. Twenty-six car parking lot available - little use is occurring at the present time.
  - b. Users would have to enter the area through one of the main park entrances, thus having park pass information control.
  - c. Area is in normal patrol route at this time.
  - d. Restrooms and drinking water available.
  - e. This area has never reached park capacity.



- f. Least impact to wildlife within the park.
- g. Dog training in this area is supported by the Division of Wildlife.
- h. Area can be used for a number of recreation uses, not just exclusive use by dog trainers.

Disadvantages of this area include:

- a. Close proximity to Stevens Grove, a proposed site for a group picnic area.
- b. Bicycle/hiking trail circles the pond.
- c. Rearing unit may/may not operate year around, thus the pond may not contain water during the winter months. This is not a major problem for the dog users.

(IV.) Summary:

The Chatfield planting base settling pond, just north-west of the present Cottonwood Grove parking lot is the recommended site. This area is currently within controlled park boundaries, patrolled frequently, and has available a twenty-six car paved parking lot, which has historically received little use.

Restroom facilities and drinking water are available in the immediate vicinity. This area, as compared to the two other proposed areas, will least impact existing wildlife in the park.

Presently the existing pond will retain an acceptable amount of water for dog training from April 1 through October 1. The majority of visitation to the area will also occur during this time period. Currently the Division of Wildlife is negotiating with the Denver Water Board to obtain additional water rights to support these ponds at an acceptable water level year around.

Signs will be needed to identify the area and post regulations, mark specific boundaries, and direct visitors along the main park road to the parking area. The Colorado Hunting Dog Association shall be responsible for the expense and installation and maintenance of all signs and sign posts. All signs and placement of signs will be approved prior to installation by the park manager. All signs shall be in place to use of the area.

In the event that fencing will be needed to separate use activities whether now or in the future, the Colorado Hunting Dog Association will also be responsible for this expense and installation with park manager approval.

Permanent and Future Use

Currently, visitor use in this immediate area of the park indicates compatibility with a Dog Training/Exercise Area. However, future construction and additional master planning could possibly change this trend.

Any recreational activity or/and area established by Board action is subject to change or denial if future trends indicate a need and the Parks Board so directs.

(V.) Staff Recommendation:

Grant approval for DPOR to establish approximately four acres to be used for a dog training/exercise area. The area would be located below Chatfield Dam near the Cottonwood Grove parking area (site 2). Currently, visitor use in this area indicates compatibility with a dog training/exercise area. However, future use demands, construction or change in management planning could possibly change this trend. Any recreational activity established by the Board is subject to change or denial if the future recreation needs change and the Board so directs.

The area will be available for other recreational uses, not exclusive use by dog training.

The area will be open seven days a week, year around.

Retriever-R-Trainers using .22 caliber blanks are permitted, all other firearms are prohibited. No blank pistols will be allowed.

This is the only area in the park where dogs will be allowed off leash.

Radio controlled training collars are prohibited.

Dogs must be under the control of the trainer/handler at all times.

Chatfield SRA Dog Training/Exercise Area  
Gene Schmidt  
October 31, 1983  
Page 6

No live birds will be used or released in this area.

Signs shall be posted to identify the area and post regulations.

The Colorado Hunting Dog Association shall be responsible for the expense, installation and maintenance of all dog training area signs and sign posts.

All signs shall be in place prior to use of the area and be approved by the Park Manager prior to installation.

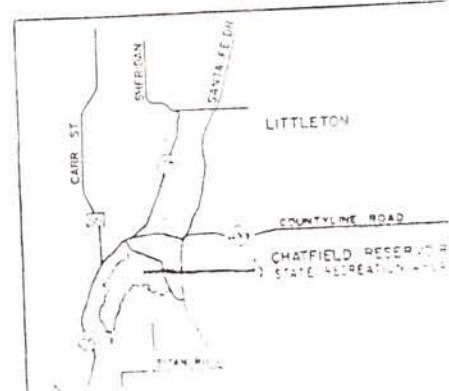
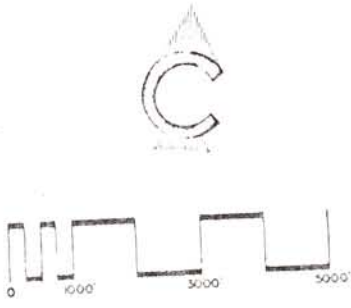
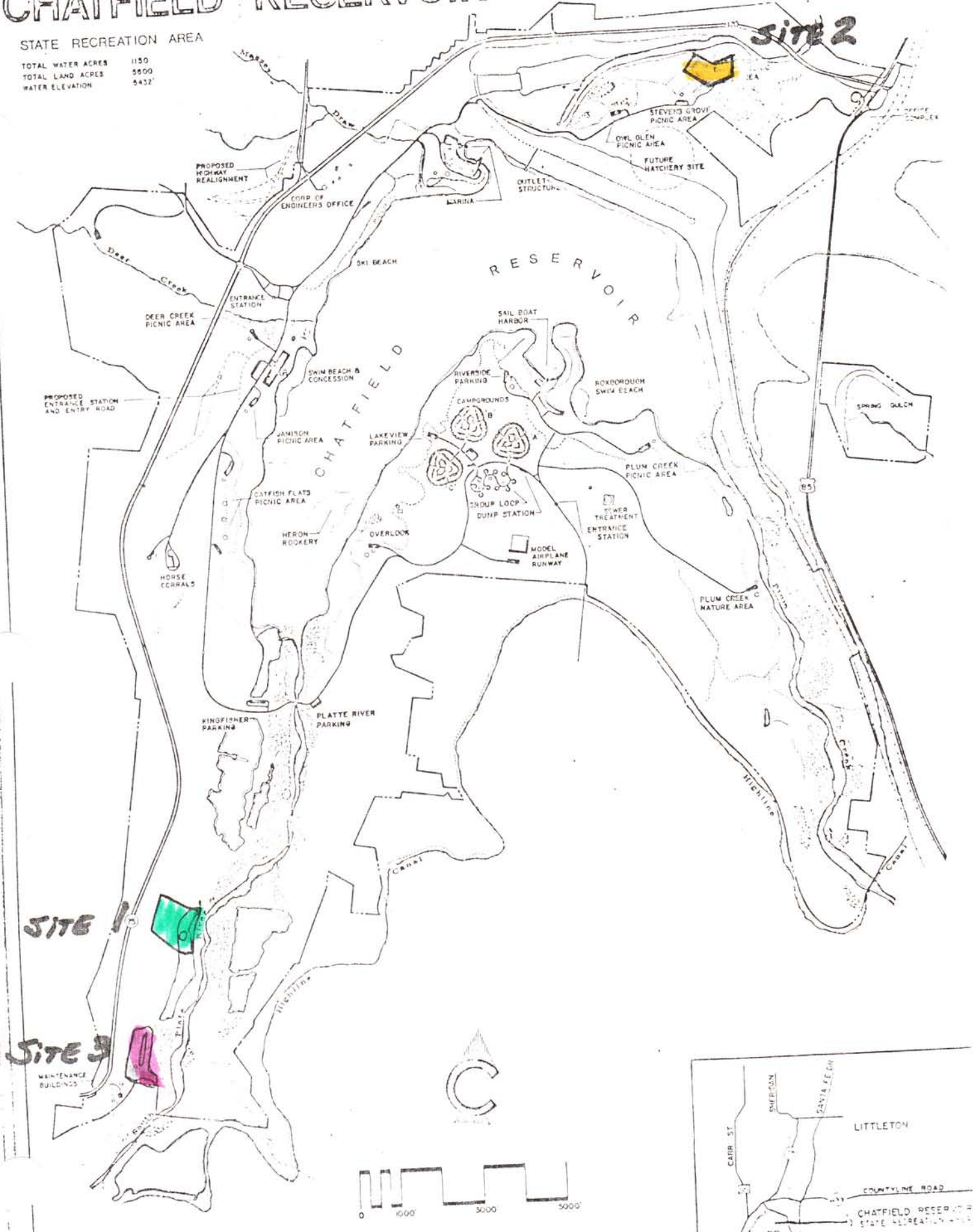


# CHATFIELD RESERVOIR

PROPOSED DOG TRAINING/EXERCISE AREA

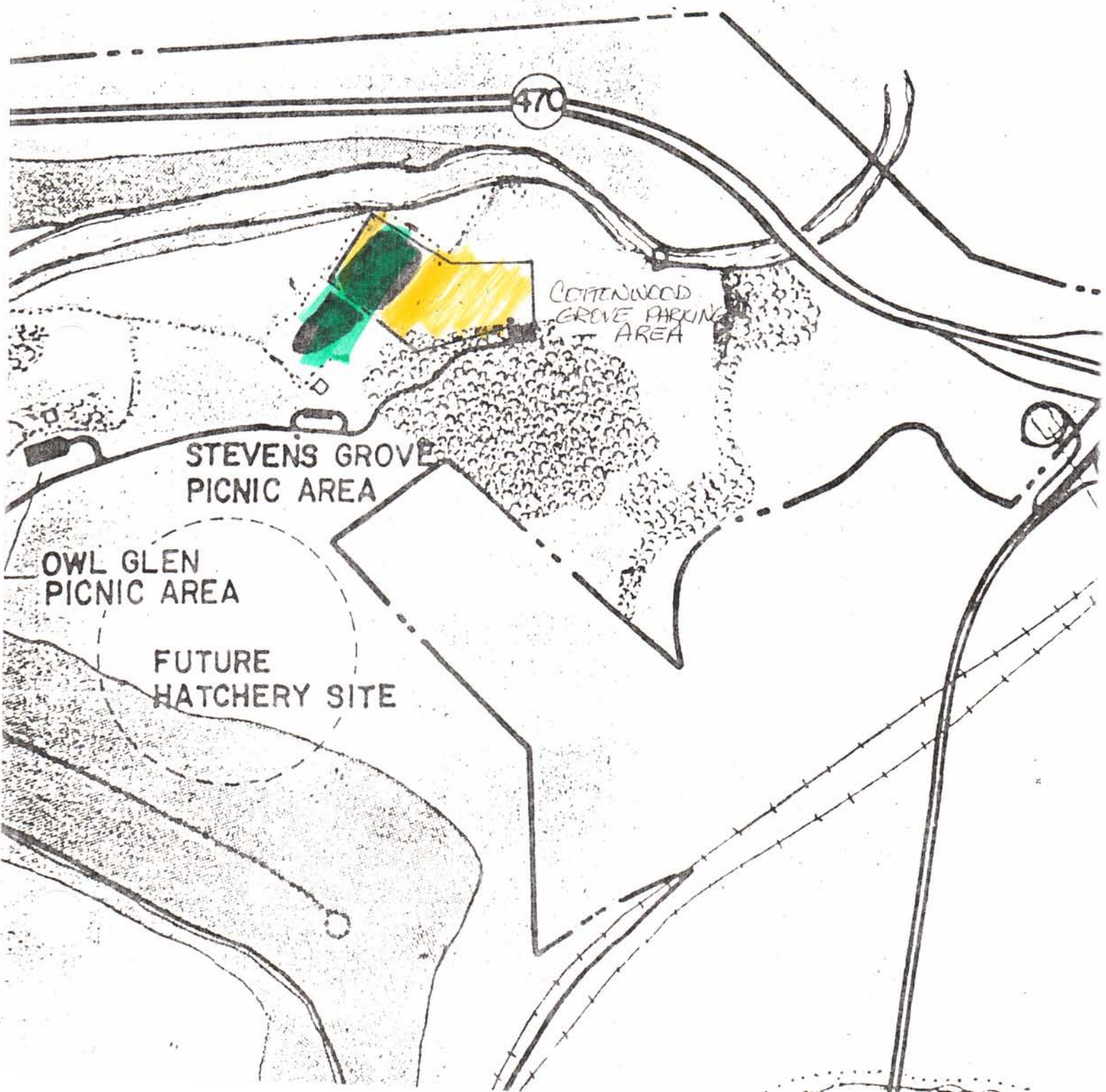
STATE RECREATION AREA

TOTAL WATER ACRES 1150  
 TOTAL LAND ACRES 5500  
 WATER ELEVATION 5432'

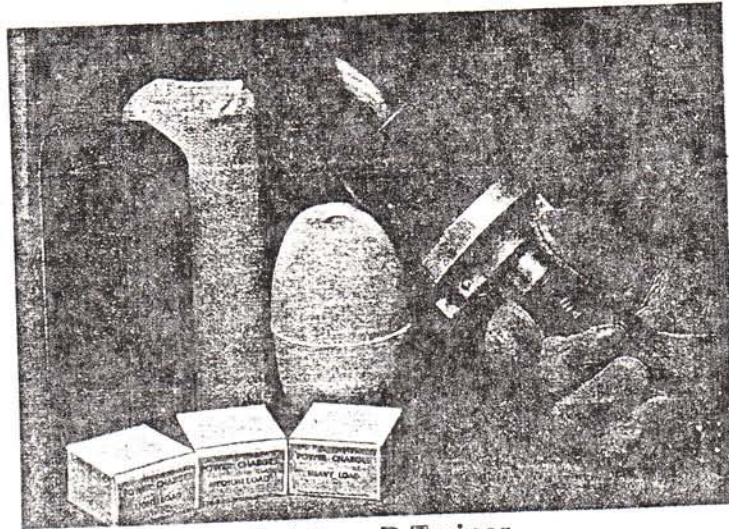


LEGEND  
 PAVED ROADS  
 LAKE PATI-SAND TRAILS

PROPOSED DOG TRAINING/EXERCISE AREA







### Retrieve-R-Trainer

Time proves the value of a product and for many years this has been one of the best, most valuable, time-tested training aids of professional dog trainers. In fact, world famous retriever trainer Richard Wolters was instrumental in the final development of this Retrieve-R-Trainer. From one stationary position with your dog at heel you can: Throw dummies three different distances up to 275 feet away. Teach your dog to watch the bird. Train your dog to hold, on the sound of a gun. In addition, you can make multiple blind retrieves set from one position and plant retrieves from off-line. The trainer uses special .22 caliber ammo to launch the dummy. In one continuous action your dog hears the gunshot; sees the dummy fall and marks it. This Trainer requires NO firearms permit to use. This is the most ideal all-in-one dog training device you can use.

- 835-200-000—Retrieve-R-Trainer . . . \$69.95
- 835-201-007—Canvas dummy—White . . \$10.95
- 835-201-005—Canvas dummy—Red . . \$11.95
- 835-202-007—Plastic dummy—White . . \$10.95
- 835-202-005—Plastic dummy—Red . . \$11.95
- Extra Ammo
- 835-203-000—Light, Per 100 . . . . . \$7.95
- 835-204-000—Medium, Per 100 . . . . . \$7.95
- 835-205-000—Heavy, Per 100 . . . . . \$7.95

