



A very important meeting of the Union County Gun Club with federal, state and local officials at the proposed shooting range site in March 2018.
Photo by Shawn Jarrard

then-Secretary of State Brian Kemp, and U.S. Rep. Doug Collins, among others.

A shooting range application was made through the office of Commissioner Paris last year, and resolute steps were taken toward making the range a reality.

The Forest Service held a public meeting on Oct. 24 concerning its progress in processing the application and next steps, and USFS officials traveled to the proposed range site on Dec. 11 to conduct live-fire testing to check for noise issues.

There's still an extensive environmental testing phase to be completed at the site located off Georgia 180, not to mention a subsequent administrative review period and final decision-making process, so it will probably be late summer 2019 before the Forest Service says yes or no to the project.

The Union County Gun Club, under the advisement of Union County Sheriff Mack Mason, made big waves last year in its quest for a shooting range on public land, earning the support of many important individuals, including Georgia Director for USDA Rural Development Joyce White,