

Statewide Shooting Range Update
For the Arizona Game and Fish Commission
August 2, 2007
Flagstaff, AZ

3-Points Shooting Range

- **Homeland Security** - The Department of Homeland Security, Border Patrol, The Tucson Rifle Club and the Department are reviewing the possibility of entering into an agreement to provide the border patrol officers the use of this range to conduct qualifications and practice shoots.
- **Topographical Survey**-The Department is in the process of receiving quotes for conducting a topographical survey. This survey will be used to determine contours and the necessary requirements for fill dirt to be used in constructing the impact and lateral berms.

7- Mile Range

- **Construction of Lateral Berms** - The Mohave Sportsman's Club has acquired over 10,000 yards of material to construct a lateral berm on the 200 yard public range. The Department has received all the bids on the construction costs and is in the process of scheduling the contractor to begin work.

Adair Shooting Range

- **Range Acquisition** – The Department, along with Commissioner Woodhouse met with a representative of Adair Ranges Inc., a non-profit corporation, to discuss the possibility of transferring the Recreation and Public Purposes (RPP) Patent for the Adair Range from Yuma County to the Department. The County currently holds the property under a RPP Patent issued by the BLM.

Ben Avery Shooting Facility

- **Main Range Expansion and Improvements** – The installation of water lines and portable swamp coolers will be in place by September 2007. This will provide a cooling system along the entire length of the main-range firing line.
- **Bench-rest** – Construction of the east lateral berm is 85% complete. This berm, which is necessary to provide a safety barrier between bench-rest and rifle silhouette, is being constructed with donated material and labor.
- **Master Plan** –The Department reviewed draft alternatives reflecting user group and focus group input. An updated draft is being prepared by Logan Simpson Design (LSD) for additional review by the Department. An additional public meeting of the user and focus group participants will be conducted in late August or early September. The final draft is scheduled to be presented to Commission for approval in October.

- **Archery Range Improvements-** The Department is in the process of installing kiosks at the fixed distance archery range, youth archery range and the FITA Olympic archery range. Additional work on lateral berms and realignment of targets is scheduled to be done at the fixed distance range and FITA practice ranges to address safety issues.
- **Evening League Shooting** – The first annual summer leagues for small bore rifle and Archery will conclude in August. The development of these leagues has several new participants to the shooting sports.

Ben Avery Clay Target Center

- **Women’s Shotgun Shooting Program** – The Department is developing a new shotgun shooting program for women at the clay target center. This program is tentatively scheduled to begin in September, and continue twice a month. The initial goal is to reach up to sixty new women shotgun shooters per month. This program will provide an opportunity for the recruitment of new women shooters and will be offered free of charge for first time participants.
- **Trap and Skeet Fields** – Renovations to the trap and skeet line are complete. There are now 18 trap and 14 skeet fully operational fields.
- **Sporting Clays Course** – 20 stations on the main sporting clays course are operational. The Department is in the process of developing and constructing a new sporting clays course to be used for groups, special shooting venues and trainings.
- **Warehouse** – The Department is in the process of receiving quotes for the installation of the electrical service for the building.
- **Business/Visitor Center** - The architectural remodeling plans are final and the Department is in the process of going out to bid for the project.
- **RV Campground** - The Department is going out to bid for the electrical component of this project. The required permit applications for constructing the RV campground are being reviewed by the Maricopa County Environmental Services Division.
- **Registered Events** - The Department held three registered shooting events in June and July. A registered skeet shoot on June 16, with 20 shooters, a registered sporting clays event on July 1, with 60 shooters, and a registered sporting clays event on July 29, with 67 shooters.
- **Shotgun Leagues-** The first shotgun league will conclude in August. These Department organized shotgun leagues attracted over 50 participants in each of the three disciplines of trap, skeet and sporting clays.
- **Shotgun Campout-** The Department hosted a shotgun shooting campout on June 22, for 14 youth. The program consisted of youth and adults camping out at the CTC and conducting shooting workshops throughout the evening and next day. This was a pilot

for future programs of this type to be held at the Clay Target Center.

City of Goodyear Police Range

- **Range Development** – The Department continues to work in an advisory capacity assisting the City of Goodyear in the application process of acquiring property from BLM for a shooting range. The Department is in the process of finalizing a plan of development and creating engineered drawings for the application process.

Cottonwood Shooting Range

- **Range Development** – The Department met with Chip Davis, Yavapai County Supervisor, and several individuals interested in developing a shooting range near Cottonwood. This meeting was organized by the County Supervisor to gather information on what is needed to develop a shooting range. The Department is currently working in an advisory capacity assisting the County Supervisor and his staff in the shooting range development process.

Northern Arizona Shooting Range

- **Site Selection** – The Department has finalized the range site within the 1100 acre study area. The final 800 acre range site is located at Township 18 North, Range 6 East, Section 2 and the North ¼ of Section 11, Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Coconino County, Arizona. This 800 acre portion of the original study area was selected for the following reasons:
 - **Access** – The selected site is located adjacent to a paved Forest Service roadway (FR 253) and will require the construction of only approximately 0.6 mile of roadway to access the main range facilities. The southern portion of the site (where archery ranges are anticipated) can be accessed separately by FR 253B which would continue through the southwest corner of the section. Moving the range any further west would likely require closure of this road as it would traverse through the south central part of the range facilities.
 - **Proximity to Borrow Sources** – The subject site contains a hill (marked 6789 on the USGS topographic map) which during the geotechnical explorations was observed to consist of tabular basalt layers 6” to 12” in thickness which can be readily excavated and crushed using standard methods. In addition, excavations in the southwest corner of the site indicated the presence of clay deposits at least 12 feet deep, which can be used as a source of fine material for berm construction.
 - **Drainage/Topography** – The selected site represents the flattest, most open, potential range site in the Willard Springs vicinity with only two relatively minor drainages present in the whole site. These drainages will facilitate the construction of detention basins to retain lead on site. Moving the range any further west would begin to intersect more prominent drainages and sharper slopes, requiring more costly construction.
 - **Cultural Resources** – Within the 1100 acre study area, there is a known archaeological site toward the northwest corner. This site avoids that area by locating development to the southwest of the study area.

- **Forest Service Coordination** – The Department and its consultant met with Coconino National Forest (CNF) representatives on July 20, 2007 to discuss the development of the Proposed Action.
- **Proposed Action** – The Department is in the process of finalizing the Proposed Action for a land exchange to acquire the Willard Springs site to develop a shooting range. The tentative schedule for completion and submittal to the CNF is the week of August 6, 2007. Acceptance by the CNF will initiate the NEPA process and the due diligence associated with the identified properties.

Prescott Rifle Club - Granite Mountain Shooting Range

- **Range Relocation** - The Department was notified by the Prescott Trap and Skeet Club that the potential site on private land north of the current range is no longer available. The Department continues to work with the Prescott National Forest (PNF) and the Prescott Rifle Club on two locations identified as possible sites to move the range. The PNF is reviewing the process of issuing a Special Use Permit to the Department for the development of this shooting range.

Rio Salado Sportsmen's Club - Usery Mountain Shooting Range

- **Land Transfer / Hold Harmless Issue** - The Department has requested a quote to provide the Phase II analysis to determine the migration of lead and Best Management Practices Program (BMPP) for lead exposure as requested in the Phase I analysis. The Department has started the RFQ to conduct an analysis to determine the amount of lead contained in the berms. Based on the analysis the Department will determine if it is economically feasible to mine the lead for recycling.
- **Maintenance Facility** - The Department has reviewed and approved the construction plans for a maintenance facility submitted by the Club. The EA checklist has been completed and submitted to Habitat Branch for final approval before a notice to proceed is issued.
- **South Buffer Property** - The Department will be scheduling a meeting with the new Director of County Parks to further pursue the possibility of acquiring this piece of property.

Sierra Vista Range

- **Topographical Survey** - The Department is in the process of acquiring quotes to conduct a topographical survey. This survey will be used to determine contours and the necessary requirements for fill dirt to be used in constructing the impact and lateral berms. This is the first step to establishing a new plan of development on the shooting range.
- **Fencing of Range** – The Department continues work to construct a new fence on the south side of the range for safety and security purposes as the existing fence has deteriorated significantly.

Silver Creek White Mountain Archery Range

- **Range Development** - The Department has modified the range layout design and is in the process of developing engineering plans for construction. The Department will update the White Mountain Bowhunters at the end of August with the final design. Construction is scheduled to begin as soon as the final design is approved.

Tri-State Shooting Range

- **Site Location** - The Department continues to monitor the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) consultation process. The National Historic Preservation Act - Section 106 process is nearing an end and a decision will be issued afterward by the BLM.

White Mountain Trap and Skeet Club

- **Road Improvements** - The Department has met with the Club and identified the portion of the access road to be improved. The Department has received a cost from the contractor to fix this portion of the road leading to the trap and skeet club. Work is scheduled to begin in September.

White Mountain Shooters Association

- **Range Development** - The White Mountain Shooters Association is in the preliminary stage of gathering information on the development of a shooting range in Linden. The club is finalizing their status as a non-profit club/organization. The Department is working in an advisory role to assist the Association in the preliminary site selection and the application processes for the Forest Service and BLM.

Wickenburg Sportsman's Association

- **Range Relocation** - The Department is working with the Wickenburg Sportsman's Association on the possibility of relocating the existing shooting range to a parcel of BLM property. The club has located a new parcel of land with county maintained road access. The Department has conducted a site visit and evaluation of the property and has determined that it is a suitable location for relocating the existing range. The next step would be the acquisition of the property through the BLM application process. This process would require, but not be limited to, a plan of development, engineering drawings, SHPO clearances, and ADOA risk management requirements.

SHOOTING PROGRAMS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP)

- **2007 Skeet and Sporting Clays Nationals** – Over 45 youth from across the state attended the 2007 SCTP National Championship July 14-15, 2007, for Skeet and Sporting Clays held in San Antonio, Texas. The athletes along with their parents and volunteer coaches provided their own funding to travel to this competition. Over 400 athletes representing 19 states competed in four divisions and two disciplines. Arizona

placed eight teams in the top three of the respective divisions. This included a sweep of the Rookie division and a national championship in the Junior Varsity Skeet Division.

- **Club Practices-** Several clubs are planning on attending the 2007 Trapshooting SCTP Nationals in Sparta, Illinois in August. These clubs continue to conduct team practices and trainings on their own. A portion of the SCTP clubs are beginning their recruitment efforts for the 2008 season by conducting special practices for those interested in joining the program. The Department was awarded eight Step Outside grants to assist in this effort.
- **Coaches Training-**The Department conducted a NRA/USA Shooting/CMP Shotgun Coaching School on July 21-22, in Tucson, Arizona. This instructor training was conducted to develop and certify new SCTP volunteer instructors for programs in southern Arizona.

Statewide Archery and Bowhunting Program

- **Archery in Schools Training-** The Department has scheduled three Basic Archery Instructor Courses at BASF for the month of August. The projection for participating schools is expected to be up to 100 in September when schools go back in session.
- **Robbins Butte-** The Department is evaluating the layout for constructing an archery range on the property. Several considerations need to be addressed and reviewed before final location can be determined. The Department is anticipating a final layout in September and then will develop a construction timeline.