

Northern Arizona Regional Shooting Facility Update
Presented to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission
January 19, 2007

The following update was given to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission at the Commission's regular public meeting in January. The meeting was held Jan. 19, 2007 in Glendale, Ariz.

- **Consultant Coordination** – The Department met with the consultant on January 10, 2007 to outline and coordinate activities and review and modify the Gantt Chart.
- **Aerial Surveys** – The aerial survey has been completed. This will be presented to the Commission at its January meeting.
- **Forest Service Access Permit** – An Access Permit will be required to conduct the geo-technical and soil testing studies. The Department and its consultant will be meeting with representatives of the Coconino National Forest (CNF) on Jan. 22, 2007 to determine the requirements and process to obtain an access permit to conduct this study. Based on preliminary discussions with the local Ranger District, the CNF will require a Biological Evaluation (BE) of the geo-tech study area and Class III cultural resource surveys of a one-acre area around each trench, along with a 50-foot wide access route to each trench to issue the Access Permit. Depending on the outcome of the Jan. 22 meeting, the Director may be contacting the Forest Supervisor.
- **Geo-Tech Investigations** – A scope of work for this project has been drafted which includes conducting soil analysis to assess geotechnical properties of the range study area. Sampling will be conducted over an area that will be sufficient to provide adequate justification of soil analysis in the NEPA document. Samples will be identified and analyzed for composition of soils and bedrock. The following soil analyses will be conducted in a lab facility: Consolidation/compression, Direct Shear, Swell, Sieve Analysis, Atterberg Limits, Standard Proctor and Moisture content. Ground disturbances resulting from testing will be minimized per Forest Service requirements.
- **Environmental Soil Testing** - A scope of work for this project has been drafted which includes conducting soil testing to establish a baseline estimate of the presence of trace heavy metals that could be associated with the range study area. Soil samples will be collected from the trenches made during the geo-technical investigations. Soil samples will be sampled for lead, antimony and arsenic. The consultant is also proposing to collect surface oil samples along I-17 adjacent to the project area to document existing lead exposure from gasoline emissions. An issue raised during public meetings revolved around the possibility that residents from the area are currently exposed to more aerosol lead than can ever be expected from an outdoor shooting range. Collection of freeway soil samples will help in analyzing this issue in the NEPA document. This project's completion date is also dependent on weather conditions and soil moisture content due to the sampling protocol.

- **Site Plan** – The Department has developed an 800-acre preliminary Phase I Site Plan that will be used to guide current activities. This site plan will be located within the 1100-acre study area currently being evaluated. The site plan will continue to be developed and refined as information is gained from the geo-technical investigation, soil testing, and appraisal process. The final site plan presented to the Forest Service will dictate their “Proposed Action” for mitigation of range activities on surrounding forest lands.
- **Appraisals** – The Department will begin conducting a preliminary appraisal of the Willard Springs site in January. This will be used to determine the matching value needed for the land transfer as well as define the potential range foot-print. This will not negate the need for a formal appraisal to be completed prior to the land transfer.