

Statewide Shooting Range Update
 For the Arizona Game and Fish Commission
 March 2, 2007
 Phoenix, AZ

Northern Arizona Shooting Range

- **Consultant Coordination** – The Department met with the consultant on February 22, 2007, to coordinate activities identified in the Gantt Chart.
- **Forest Service Access Permit** – The Coconino National Forest (CNF) is requiring the Department to obtain an access permit to conduct the Geo-Technical and Environmental soils Testing. The Department is still waiting for weather conditions to allow access to conduct work to meet permit requirements, which are a Class III Cultural Resource Survey and a Biological Evaluation and Assessment (BA&E). A contract has been issued to Logan Simpson Design, Inc. (LSD) to complete the cultural survey and the BA&E in order to secure the temporary access permit for the Willard Spring site.
 - **Cultural Survey** – A Class III cultural resource survey and report covering each of the 12 sample sites and the access route to each of the sites will be conducted. The cultural survey will include a 60-foot wide survey of the access route and a one-acre survey of each sample site. A certified archeologist will conduct the survey when weather conditions permit.
 - **Biological Evaluation** – The BA&E is currently underway which will include a literature search and if needed an on-site reconnaissance of the access route and each sample site to document presence or absence of threatened, endangered and sensitive species prior to site excavation. All fieldwork and reporting will be conducted by LSD personnel. Subsequent to the acceptance of the final report by the CNF, the CNF will notify the Department of the issuance of the short term special use permit and the conditions and dates of entry for conducting testing.
- **Geo-Tech Investigations** – The scope of work for this project has been provided to the CNF and will start once a permit has been issued and weather conditions permit, as it will require the ground to be completely thawed to conduct this study. Work includes conducting soil analysis to assess geotechnical properties of the range study area to evaluate site viability. 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 and test pits will be refilled and covered with material from the immediate area.

The Department, LSD and CNF personnel are scheduled to inspect the Willard Spring site, locate soils test pits and access routes to each site on March 13, 2007,

- **Environmental Soil Testing** - The scope of work for this project has been provided to the CNF and will start once a permit has been issued and weather conditions allow.

Work 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 to evaluate site viability. 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.

- **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.
- **Phase I and II Construction** – The Department estimates that construction of the Phase I Site Plan (presented at the January 2007 Commission Meeting) from the time of ground breaking to completion will take 9 to 12 months. Phase II Site Plan construction, which would include additional ranges and facilities, is estimated to take an additional 18 months with components being brought on-line individually. Fire and weather restrictions may affect estimated time for completion.
- **Appraisals** – The preliminary appraisal of the Willard Springs site is expected to be completed by the middle of March. This will be used to determine the matching value needed for the land transfer as well as to define the potential range footprint. This appraisal will not negate the need for a formal appraisal to be completed prior to the land transfer.
- **Public Involvement** –Commission updates continue to be posted on the Department website and the Northern Arizona Shooting Range website (www.nazrsf.com). The Department has also made progress in establishing a public working group to improve communications and identify and address issues. LSD has reviewed comments received from public meetings and will forward a list of suggested members for the working group to the Department. The Department and LSD will convene working group meetings upon confirmation of citizens willing to participate. This working group will consist of local area residents that support and oppose the range. The first scheduled group meeting will be in March 2007.
- **Sound Study Addendum** – The Department received an addendum to the Sound Study conducted last year addressing the concerns surrounding simultaneous fire and associated decibel levels refuting the idea that the study was invalid because it did not include sequential fire testing. The addendum has been posted to the NASRF website and is attached to this update.