

Statewide Shooting Range Update
For the Arizona Game and Fish Commission
April 11, 2007
Phoenix, AZ

Northern Arizona Shooting Range

- **Consultant Coordination** – The Department met with the consultant on April 4, 2007, to coordinate activities identified in the Gantt Chart.
- **Forest Service Access Permit** – Field work for the Cultural and Biological Evaluations have been completed and the final reports were sent to the Coconino National Forest on April 11, 2007. No issues were identified that are expected to hinder obtaining an access permit which is expected to be issued for the Geo-Tech and Environmental Soil Testing.
- **Geo-Tech Investigations and Environmental Soil Testing** – Test pit locations and access routes were marked in late March. Geo-Tech and Environmental Soil Testing is scheduled for the week of April 16, 2007. Work is expected to be completed in a week with the final reports being sent to the Department four to six weeks later.
- **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 1000-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 (originally 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 times for completion.
- **Appraisals** – The preliminary appraisal for the Willard Springs study area has been completed. The appraiser estimates the value to be \$11,500 per acre. This value will be used to determine the matching value needed for the land transfer as well as to define the potential range footprint. Formal appraisals of the Willard Springs site as well as Commissioned owned properties will still need 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 conducted the first working group meeting comprised of area residents with supporting and opposing views on April 4, 2007. The latest information was presented at the meeting regarding the study area, Phase I Site Plan, and the next steps in the process, and there was also an open discussion of issues. Residents opposing the range expressed that they supported a range in Northern Arizona as long as it was not near their community, and they also stated that they intend to take legal action against range development at the Willard Springs location.