

Statewide Shooting Range Update
For the Arizona Game and Fish Commission
February 1, 2007
Phoenix, AZ

Northern Arizona Shooting Range

- **Consultant Coordination** – The Department met with the consultant on January 30, 2007 to coordinate activities identified in the Gantt Chart.
- **Forest Service Access Permit** – The Department met with the Coconino National Forest (CNF) on January 22, 2006 to deliver a request for a short-term special use permit to conduct environmental soils and analytical testing on an 800-acre study site. The sampling and testing will be used to determine site viability and locations for various range facilities proposed for the Willard Springs area. During the meeting it was determined that issuance of a permit would require a Class III Cultural Resource Survey and a Biological Evaluation and Assessment (BA&E):
 - **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, which is currently underway, will be completed on the project site. The BA&E 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 Logan Simpson Design Inc. (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.
- **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 Department has begun conducting a preliminary appraisal of the Willard Springs site, which 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** – The Department will be stepping up efforts to increase public involvement in this process. The level of communication will be increased to acquire public support and respond to misinformation. Commission updates will be posted on the Department website and the Northern Arizona Shooting Range website (www.nazrsf.com). The Department is also working to establish a public committee/working group to improve communications and identify and address issues. The first scheduled group meeting will be in March 2007.