FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

LAKEPOINT COMMUNITY ARCHERY PARK WILDLIFE RESTORATION PROGRAM

GRANT NUMBER W-68

Segment 7

F19AF00205

ALABAMA HUNTER EDUCATION
Section 4

March 01, 2019 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES DIVISION

FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: ALABAMA Project #: W-68-7

GRANT TITLE: Lakepoint Community Archery Park

AGREEMENT PERIOD: March 01, 2019 thru September 30, 2021

INTERIM REPORTING PERIOD: October 01, 2019 thru September 30, 2020

OBJECTIVE: To construct/develop a 50-yard archery range on State Park Property in Barbour County. The ranges will adhere to guidelines set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Lakepoint State Park Employees will operate and maintain the archery range throughout its useful life. The State Park and the Eufaula Chapter of Bowhunters of Alabama will develop programming to provide youth and adults an opportunity to become involved in various facets of archery.

Target Date of Achievement: September 30, 2021

<u>Date of Accomplishments:</u> September 30, 2020 – Grand Opening held on June 24, 2021

Significant Deviations: Elevated Platform was deleted from the project

Need

Alabama is quickly becoming a highly urbanized state as a result of changes in the economy, industry, and other factors leading to a shift away from a rural way of life. Access to shooting ranges in Alabama is limited, especially in these increasingly urbanized areas. The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries operates five shooting ranges on state owned property and five in cooperation with wildlife management area lessors. In addition, the U.S. Forest Service operates five shooting ranges on its property throughout Alabama. There are very few privately operated shooting ranges in and around Alabama's major metropolitan areas.

WFF operates thirteen community archery parks in cooperation with City Parks and Recreation Departments, and two in cooperation with our State Parks. These facilities are highly utilized and increase the visibility of archery within the respective communities.

Access to archery ranges, although not as impaired as firearms ranges, is becoming increasingly more difficult because of city ordinances. It is essential that the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries take action to develop and maintain additional shooting opportunities for the citizens of Alabama. Failure to develop additional public shooting ranges will result in decreased shooting opportunities and degradation of our shooting and hunting heritage. Lack of convenient locations to participate could be a barrier that prevents some individuals from becoming involved in the shooting sports.

Approach

The Lakepoint Archery Park project involves approximately 3 acres, more or less. The site is located at 31° 59'44.06" N and 85° 07'22.75" W.

The range was developed through a partnership with State Parks and the Archery Trade Association. Our agency paid for all materials and archery related structures including the target frames, targets and other archery related items. Construction was performed by state park employees. Installation of target frames, bow racks and ground quivers and other archery related items was performed by WFF staff. In addition, the park will provide routine maintenance such as grass cutting and litter removal.

Performance Results for Needs/Threats:

Need 1: Need for more public access to areas or facilities for outdoor recreation

Objective 1: Archery Range Construction

To construct/develop a 50-yard archery range on State Park Property in Barbour County. The ranges will adhere to guidelines set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Lakepoint State Park Employees will operate and maintain the archery range throughout its useful life. The State Park and Bow Hunters of Alabama (BHA) will develop programming to provide youth and adults an opportunity to become involved in various facets of archery.

Actions/Results for Performance Period:

Approval for the construction of the Lakepoint Community Archery Park was received during fiscal year 2019. We coordinated with Lakepoint State Park officials to develop a plan for construction of the range facility. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this project was delayed as the original contractor backed out for personal reasons due to the pandemic. It was decided to construct the archery park on a smaller scale without an elevated platform. Target installation was completed in June of 2021 and the range opened on June 24, 2021. Range consists of a covered shooting line with a youth target range from 5-20 yards and an adult target range from 15-50 yards. The Archery Park is available for public use seven days a week, during normal park operating hours.