

## W-134-P-19 Shooting Range Improvement Grant Extension Request

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### **Project Overview and History:**

The Division of Wildlife operates 41 public shooting ranges around the state and many of these ranges have been in existence for more than 40 years and receive substantial use. These ranges consist of supervised and unsupervised rifle, pistol and shotgun ranges. These ranges have been neglected and are in serious need of updates and repairs. The Division of Wildlife has a responsibility to provide safe and readily available shooting opportunities for the citizens of Ohio, as well as provide this opportunity in an environmentally safe and responsible manner.

### **Request:**

The Division of Wildlife requests a one (1) year extension on this grant and an addition of \$1,010,276.76 of Section 4 Hunter Education dollars to accommodate the increased costs and time necessary to complete the ranges in this project: Harrison State Forest (SF), Fernwood SF, and Spring Valley Wildlife Area (WA) Shooting Range improvement projects.

### **Justification/Need:**

This project is being undertaken to upgrade and modernize numerous public shooting ranges on a statewide level. Maintenance of said ranges ensures that equipment and facilities provide a safe environment for recreational shooting activities leading to larger participation and recruitment. Promotion of ranges and associated shooting activities will lead to increased participation in hunting and related recreational activities.

Costs for range improvements have increased since the Division of Wildlife budgeted monies with the 2015 grant application for this award. Harrison State Forest (SF) Shooting Range doubled in cost, while Fernwood State Forest and Spring Valley WA Shooting Ranges increased in cost by 42% and 72%, respectively. These increases can be attributed to increased excavation needs, compliance requirements, and increased labor and material costs. In addition, at the time of grant application designs were not fully completed, so estimated budgets were very conservative.

Recent administrative changes within the Division of Wildlife resulted in changes in priorities for the hunter education/R3 center designed as part of the Spring Valley range project. As such, this project was broken into two phases: range improvement phase and an education center phase. The Division needs to extend this grant award one year to implement the education center phase of the shooting range update.

### **Approach/Planned Activities:**

Shooting range improvements are underway at the Fernwood State Forest Shooting Range, as a contractor was recently selected and has been issued the Notice to Proceed. These improvements will continue and are scheduled to be completed July 2019. In addition, Spring Valley Wildlife Area Shooting Range improvements are ongoing as the contractor continues to implement the approved designs. The improvements slated for this range are scheduled to be completed September 2019.

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Given the large scope of the Spring Valley range project, it was broken into two phases (as mentioned earlier). The first phase includes all the earth moving/excavation and improvements to the shooting lines, berms, backstops, drainage, baffles, etc. (this phase is underway now). Phase II includes the construction of the education center that will provide a facility for Hunter Education and R3-related activities to be facilitated onsite. Final design is completed, and bidding, construction, and final walkthroughs of this new building will be completed prior to the September 30, 2020 grant deadline.

Any range assessments or preliminary designs completed under this grant will be transitioned to the next range grant for design completion and/or implementation. Given the scopes, complexity, and increased costs of Spring Valley and the two, state forest range improvement projects, two shooting range and two archery range projects will move to the next range grant.

A site assessment and geotechnical survey were completed at the Tranquility Wildlife Area range and will be used as DOW moves forward with this project. Archery range site assessments were completed for Berlin Wildlife Area and Lake Milton State Park that will be used to site new ranges. Given the difficulties experienced with US Army Corps of Engineers-owned properties where DOW operates shooting ranges, the Deer Creek Wildlife Area Shooting Range project will be moved to the next range grant segment as well.

### Timeline:

<b><i>Range</i></b>	<b><i>Work Type</i></b>	<b><i>Begin Date</i></b>	<b><i>End Date</i></b>
Harrison SF Shooting Range	Construction/improvements	June 2016	July 2017
Fernwood SF Shooting Range	Construction/improvements	March 2019	July 2019
Spring Valley WA Shooting Range	Construction/improvements	August 2018	September 2019
Spring Valley WA SR HE Building	Construction/improvements	April 2019	August 2020
Tranquility WA Shooting Range	Site assessment/Geotech survey	February 2016	August 2016
Deer Creek WA Shooting Range	None; Reprioritized	NA	NA
Berlin WA Archery Range	Site assessment	July 2017	November 2017
Lake Milton SP Archery Range	Site assessment	July 2017	January 2018

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**Estimated Cost:**

<i>Project</i>	<i>Original Budget</i>	<i>Federal Share</i>	<i>Updated Budget</i>	<i>Federal Share</i>	<i>Non-Federal Share</i>	<i>Pct. Change</i>
Harrison SF Shooting Range	\$200,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$400,702.79	\$300,527.09	\$100,175.70	100.35%
Fernwood SF Shooting Range	\$300,000.00	\$225,000.00	\$425,500.00	\$319,125.00	\$106,375.00	41.83%
Spring Valley WA Shooting Range	\$2,000,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$2,981,162.89	\$2,235,872.16	\$745,290.73	49.06%
Spring Valley WA SR HE Building	\$1,000,000.00	\$750,000.00	\$2,200,000.00	\$1,650,000.00	\$550,000.00	120.00%
Tranquility WA Shooting Range	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,670.00	\$14,752.50	\$4,917.50	-
Deer Creek WA Shooting Range	\$1,200,000.00	\$900,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-100.00%
Berlin WA Archery Range	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,250.00	\$5,437.50	\$1,812.50	-
Lake Milton SP Archery Range	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,750.00	\$9,562.50	\$3,187.50	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$4,700,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,525,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,047,035.68</b>	<b>\$4,535,276.76</b>	<b>\$1,511,758.92</b>	<b>28.66%</b>