

Project Overview and History:

The Division of Wildlife operates 41 public shooting ranges and 11 archery ranges around the state, and many of these ranges have been in existence for more than 40 years receiving substantial use. These ranges consist of supervised and unsupervised rifle, pistol, shotgun and archery 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.

Objective:

The Division of Wildlife will increase safety, accessibility, and opportunity by creating or improving at least three public shooting ranges by August 31, 2024.

Justification/Need:

Ohio Sportsmen and sportswomen need locations to practice and to enjoy recreational shooting that are open to the public. This project is the third iteration of its kind to upgrade and modernize 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 as recreational shooters and hunters pay excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, and other hunting-related items under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act.

Benefits/Expected Results:

- Upgrade and modernize multiple public shooting ranges on a statewide level;
- Improve range accessibility and increase range use, including needed ADA upgrades;
- Improve safety to range patrons and staff by utilizing modern shooting range technology;
- Treat or remove affected soil identified by the consultants as hazardous;
- Improve environment for wildlife communities with lead clean-up and monitoring;
- Provide public places for hunters and archers to practice and improve their skills; and
- Provide public archery facilities to introduce shooting and hunting to first time users, encourage shooters and re-activate lapsed shooters.

Approach/Planned Activities:

This project will focus on the needs of ranges listed in the timeline (below) but may include additional ranges yet to be identified here. The Division will coordinate with FWS regarding any changes in priorities. As range improvements are designed, Wildlife will coordinate all compliance reviews and approvals through FWS prior to finalizing plans.

The Division of Wildlife will work with the Division of Engineering to bid and select one range consultant who will assess needs at the identified ranges (timeline), complete design work for approved range updates/improvements, and administer construction as

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warranted through each range project. All construction activities will be completed by contractors selected using appropriate, state procurement standards. Contractors will not only follow all plans developed in the design stages of the project, but will also adhere to all compliance requirements identified, documented, and approved prior to their selection.

Location:

This project will be implemented statewide.

Program Income:

No program income will be generated as a result of this project.

Timeline:

<i>Range</i>	<i>Work Type</i>	<i>Begin Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>
Indian Creek WA Pistol Range	Design/Construction	9/1/2019	8/31/2021
Berlin WA Archery Range	Design/Construction	9/1/2020	8/31/2021
Lake Milton SP Archery Range	Design/Construction	9/1/2020	8/31/2021
Tranquility WA Shooting Range	Design/Construction	9/1/2019	8/31/2023
Deer Creek WA Shooting Range	Design/Construction	9/1/2021	8/31/2024

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Estimated Cost:

<i>Project</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Federal Share</i>	<i>Non-Federal Share</i>
Indian Creek WA Pistol Range	\$1,650,000.00	\$1,237,500.00	\$412,500.00
Berlin WA Archery Range	\$150,000.00	\$112,500.00	\$37,500.00
Lake Milton SP Archery Range	\$150,000.00	\$112,500.00	\$37,500.00
Tranquility WA Shooting Range	\$1,400,000.00	\$1,050,000.00	\$350,000.00
Deer Creek WA Shooting Range	\$1,200,000.00	\$900,000.00	\$300,000.00
Consultant	\$1,000,000.00	\$750,000.00	\$250,000.00
TOTALS	\$5,550,000.00	\$4,162,500.00	\$1,387,500.00

Relationship with Other Grants:

The Wildlife Restoration Grant for FY20 and subsequent years will support maintenance activities on these and other shooting ranges around the state. Additionally, we have Shooting Range Improvement Grants Phase I and Phase II that are funding improvements on Delaware, Spring Valley, and Fernwood shooting ranges. All of these are independent of the work proposed here.

Multi-Purpose Projects:

Currently, no multipurpose projects exist within this work plan.

Compliance:

As mentioned earlier, the Division of Wildlife is seeking administrative compliance with this application, including ESA, NEPA, and Non-Construction Assurances. As ranges are prioritized and designed, the Division will work closely with the USFWS to ensure all compliance is addressed prior to contracting or initiating site work.