

Knik River Public Use Area Target Shooting Facility Design and Construction Phase One of Three **FY2014 Request: \$200,000**
Reference No: 56460

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Construction
Category: Development
Location: Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Greater Palmer) **House District:** Greater Palmer (HD 8)
Impact House District: Matsu Areawide (HD 7-11) **Contact:** Jean Davis
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2015 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2422

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The department will initiate the phased development and creation of a safe, accessible target shooting range consistent with land use management plan recommendations based on a lengthy public process. In phase 1 the department will engineer and design a minimal facility, reflecting a high degree of safety for range users and users of surrounding lands.

Funding:	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	Total
Gen Fund	\$200,000	\$400,000	\$150,000				\$750,000
Total:	\$200,000	\$400,000	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$750,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

No prior funding history

Project Description/Justification:

WHAT IS THE ISSUE OR PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED?

The problem in the Knik River Public Use Area (KRPUA) is that unregulated shooting in a heavily used public recreation area is unsafe to users of the area. Following the planning process for the KRPUA the department established rules for the area which were further defined by regulation (11 AAC 96.016) including a bail schedule for some of the more common and egregious offenses. One of these regulations (11 AAC 96.016 (c) (14) creates a no target shooting area in the most heavily used areas of the KRPUA. This regulation specifically was supported by local area residents on the basis that the department works to establish and create a small scale rifle range that would be open to the public within the KRPUA. The improved shooting area will enhance the department's ability to accomplish its mission as expressed in AS 41.23.180-230. This action will focus impacts to our resources, increase margins of safety for public users of the area, and increase the department's ability to accomplish its mission.

WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED?

The department plans on designing and constructing a small scale target shooting facility near the end of Maud Road east of Palmer, Alaska. Upon completion of this phased project, the target

shooting facility will be set off the road approximately 150 feet, and the current user created parking area will be modified to accommodate ten (10) vehicles. The facility will consist of a 100 - 150 yard shooting alley with a back stop and side stops. Backstop and side stop material will be harvested on site if available. The facility will accommodate six to ten target shooters at any given time. Six (6) shooting benches will be constructed to facilitate the sighting in of firearms. The firing line will have a concrete floor, and will include a covered shed roof supported by steel posts. The roof structure will consist of steel purling frame, with sheet metal roofing material or similar. The site will also include trash receptacles. If funding allows a vaulted toilet would be installed near the facility that would be available to all users of the area. Signs will be posted citing the rules and regulations for use of the facility as well as marking the perimeter of the developed facility. The facility will be open to the public on a year round basis. There are no fees associated with using the facility at this time.

All of the necessary permits to enable the construction are in hand, only those permits specific to active construction are needed prior to work commencing.

Phase I: Will allow for completion of all engineering and design work as well the acquisition of all construction related permits required to initiate construction (storm water pollution prevention plan and borough construction). Initial ground disturbing activities can take place including clearing and grubbing the entire footprint of the proposed facility as well excavation in the higher slopes of the construction area.

Phase II: Will allow for the completion of the range itself with no developed firing line or support facilities including trash or toilet facilities. This phase will include final excavation to level the area within design standards of a shooting range, installation of back stop and side stops including the appropriate ground cover material to mitigate ricochets.

Phase III: Will allow for the development and installation of multiple shooting benches as well as a covered firing line. This phase will also provide the support facilities of trash collection and vaulted toilet.

WHAT RESULTS WILL BE ACHIEVED AND/OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED?

The department will design and construct a safe and accessible shooting area consistent with the management objectives set forth in the Knik River Public Use Area Management Plan provided in AS 41.23190. The shooting area will perpetuate and enhance general public recreation, increase public safety, and concentrate use in a location with a long history of target shooting activity.

The shooting area will be located at the base of mountains on the north side of Maud Road in the Matanuska Valley. The area is free of developed trails, and there is no residential development within 2 miles of the proposed site. The surrounding vegetation consists of mixed birch and spruce, with up sloped topography ideal for the development of target shooting backstops and side stops.

WHY IS THIS PROJECT NEEDED NOW – WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF REMAINING STATUS QUO?

Indiscriminate target shooting on Maud Road, the Knik River Flats, Jim Creek, Man Made Lake, and the bridge on the Old Glenn Highway has been a threat to public safety for many years. Now that regulations have been promulgated restricting target shooting in these areas, the public have asked us to develop a site dedicated to target shooting. The development of a target shooting site will

provide the public with an area to legally target practice within the KRPUA, while enhancing public safety, minimizing nuisance garbage, and decreasing environmental pollution.

This project site is located approximately 8 miles from downtown Palmer, Alaska, making it readily accessible to a large number of outdoors recreationist and target shooters alike. Developed shooting ranges are limited in Southcentral Alaska and with demand ever increasing by increasing population; this site is expected to be used regularly.

WHAT ALTERNATIVES WERE CONSIDERED TO SOLVE THE ISSUE OR PROBLEM, AND WHY WERE THEY NOT SELECTED?

During the planning portion of the KRPUA, indiscriminate target shooting was identified as one of the major issues in the area that directly affect public safety as well as the general public’s ability or willingness to recreate in the area. As a result the department developed shooting restrictions for the “front country” that is most easily accessible. This idea was accepted by the majority of the public on the condition that we identify and develop a shooting range within the KRPUA. Two locations were identified and added to the final KRPUA management plan. This site under consideration is one of those proposed and identified sites in the final management plan.

The location near the end of Maud Road has been identified as the preferred location for a number of reasons: distance from private developed property, location is already being used as a “user created” shooting area, no trails or other developments exist within the footprint of the proposed range, vehicle access to the site exists by minimum maintenance road. The other identified site from the final management plan is in an undeveloped portion of the KRPUA that has no current pattern of use and is within a few hundred yards of private property that is used as primary year-round residence.

WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED WITH PRIOR YEAR FUNDING?

To date, no state money has been spent on the project. The department did receive grants from the NRA and the Friends of the NRA in the amount of \$44,000 total, to be used for the design and construction of a small scale shooting range. The department has used this money to plan for the upfront design, engineering budgetary estimates and survey cost associated with developing a public facility.

SPECIFIC SPENDING DETAIL:

LINE ITEM	DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
Personal Services	\$ 0	
Travel	\$ 0	
Services	\$ 190,000	Contract work, construction
Commodities	\$ 10,000	Maintenance, stewardship
Capital Outlay	\$ 0	
Grants	\$ 0	
PROJECT TOTAL	\$200,000	