

**Knik River Public Use Area Target Shooting Facility Design and Construction Phase 2** **FY2015 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:** 07/01/2014 - 06/30/2019 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2422

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The department will create a safe, accessible target shooting area consistent with land use management plan recommendations made after a lengthy public process. The department will design and construct a minimal facility reflecting a high degree of safety for range users and users of surrounding lands.

<b>Funding:</b>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>FY2019</u>	<u>FY2020</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$200,000	\$300,000					\$500,000
<b>Total:</b>	\$200,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" 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	0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P72 L4 SB 18 \$400,000

**Project Description/Justification:**

**What is the issue or problem to be solved?**

Unregulated shooting in the heavily used Knik River Public Use Area (KRP UA) is unsafe to users of the area. Following the planning process for the KRP UA, the department established rules for the area which were further defined by regulation (11AAC 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 KRP UA. This regulation specifically was supported by local area residents on the basis that the department works to establish and create a small scale shooting range that would be open to the public within the KRP UA. The improved shooting area will enhance the department's ability to accomplish its mission as expressed in AS 41.23.180-230, 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 the project to be performed?**

The department will design and construct 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 a parking area will be developed to accommodate 15

vehicles. The facility will consist of a 100 yard rifle shooting alley with back stop and side stops, with a pistol range immediately adjacent. Backstop and side stop material will be harvested on site if available. The facility will accommodate 10-15 target shooters at any given time. 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. 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.

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 1 (\$400,000 funding in FY2014):** Allows 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. Materials from upslope will be used to raise the level near the firing line. It is anticipated that Phase I will accomplish the creation of the access road, parking area and the pistol shooting site.

**Phase 2 (\$200,000 in FY2015):** Construction will continue on the higher slopes of the site with further development of the rifle shooting area. Support facilities including, firing line, shooting benches, firing line cover, and trash or toilet facilities will not be completed during this phase.

**Phase 3 (\$300,000 to be requested in FY2016) :** Will allow for the completion of all shooting areas as well as all support facilities including 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 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 two 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.

**How does this project contribute to the division and/or department mission?**

This project has strong ties directly to the Division of Mining, Land and Water's (DMLW) mission of providing active stewardship of state land and water. The improvements requested within this capital project will provide the public increased opportunity to participate in target shooting in an appropriate and responsible manner that shall not cause further degradation to the area and its

natural resources. This funding will further develop the range which will be available to any member of the public. The management plan for the area was adopted in 2008 then modified in 2012 following a rigorous public process lasting over two years and the development of this project is in line with the public interest.

**Why is this project needed now – What is the impact of remaining status quo?**

This project site is located approximately eight miles from downtown Palmer. Indiscriminate target shooting on Maud Road, the Knik River Flats, Jim Creek, Man Made Lake, and the bridge on the Old Glenn Highway will continue to be a threat to public safety. Recreational users of the KRPUA will continue to face risk of serious injury through continued uncontrolled discharge of firearms as the public continues to target practice in uncontrolled areas.

**What accomplishments have been achieved with prior year funding?**

To date, most of the money spent has been from grants received from either the National Rifle Association (NRA) or the Friends of the NRA in the amount of \$44,000 total. A portion of the \$400,000 received July 1, 2013 has been committed to final design and engineering for construction of Phase I of this project which is scheduled for summer 2014. The remaining balance of those funds will be included in the RFP for work construction on site.

**Specific Spending Detail:**

LINE ITEM	DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
Services	\$ 20,000	Design and engineering
Capital Outlay	\$ 180,000	Construction cost
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	