



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region

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MAILING ADDRESS:	LOCATION:
P.O. Box 25486, Attn: WSFR	Attn: WSFR
Denver Federal Center	134 Union Boulevard, Suite 460B
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486	Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

Finding of No Significant Impact

*South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks,
Proposed Rapid City Shooting Range Complex
Meade County, South Dakota*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has prepared this document in accordance with the procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended and as it applies to the Pittman-Roberson (PR) Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. Sec. 669 et. Seq.). The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) has submitted a grant application to the Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs (WSFR) for PR grant funds to construct a new public shooting range approximately 11 miles north of the City of Rapid City in Meade County, South Dakota. The SDGFP plans to construct the proposed outdoor shooting range complex on 400 acres of rolling prairie that is currently being used as pastureland for grazing cattle. The Service's approval of the grant application for PR funding constitutes a federal action subject to the provisions of the NEPA, including the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate potential impacts of the proposed project on the human environment.

The Service prepared and posted a draft EA for public comment from February 18, 2022 to March 24, 2022 (<https://www.fws.gov/press-release/2022-02/proposed-shooting-range-rapid-city-south-dakota>). Twenty-one individuals or conservation organizations provided one or more comments during this time regarding the proposed shooting range complex. In addition to the draft EA public commenting phase, the SDGFP also held public meetings from January 21, 2021, through January 4, 2022, to allow for public input on the proposed project.

A final EA entitled "*South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Final Environmental Assessment, Rapid City Shooting Range Complex, Meade County, South Dakota*" and attached Appendices, have been prepared to comply with NEPA requirements and to assist in the Service's decision-making to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. All comments received during the draft EA public comment period have been addressed within the context of the final Environmental Assessment and Appendices.

A Preferred Alternative and a No Action Alternative were analyzed in the EA. The Preferred Alternative is the construction of a new public shooting range complex that will

be constructed on property owned by SDGFP. The proposed project will fulfill the need for a shooting range facility in the Rapid City area that will be easily accessible to the public and that will provide a safe, confined, and controlled location for shooting activities. Mitigation measures were developed to avoid, minimize, and/or compensate for the potential impacts of some project activities. As part of standard operating procedures, EPA's Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges, will be implemented throughout the lifetime of the project to reduce potential environmental impacts. Mitigation measures for the proposed project are outlined in Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences, of the final EA and include mitigation measures to reduce the overall impact to the environment specifically for water, soil, and topography. In addition, construction and maintenance activities will be restricted to designated areas to avoid disturbance to cultural resources identified in the area.

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed project site will continue to be used as pastureland. Recreational shooting at scattered sites in the area will continue to be the norm and basic shooting safety issues will continue to be an issue. The No Action Alternative will not meet the project need of providing a shooting range facility for the second largest community in South Dakota that is a safe, confined, and controlled location for shooting activities.

Based on review of the Final EA, I find that the proposed action is not a major Federal action which would significantly impact the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. I also find that all reasonable alternatives were considered in the evaluation of the proposed project and that this project complies with the intent of the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988 "Floodplain Management", and Executive Order 11990 "Protection of Wetlands". Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the project will have no effect on any listed species or critical habitat. Consequently, I have determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The Final EA is on file at the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 134 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, Colorado, 80228, and is also available online at: <https://www.fws.gov/press-release>.

APPROVAL:

ANNA MUNOZ

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Date: 2022.07.12 10:00:54 -06'00'

Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6 / Date

References:

SDGFP, Final Environmental Assessment, Rapid City Shooting Range Complex, SDGFP & UFWS, June 15, 2022.

USEPA, Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges, Revised June 2005.