

NORTH DAKOTA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT

**SHOOTING RANGE CONSTRUCTION**

Red River Regional Marksmanship Center (RRRMC)

W - 94 - E

Grant Period 3/15/2009 - 12/31/2010

**NEED**

Actual firearm/archery shooting experiences against the backdrop of formal hunter education enhances the learning objectives surrounding firearm safety and marksmanship. This experience is not possible without the availability of indoor and outdoor shooting ranges across the state. There is no indoor shooting range open to the public in the states most populated area (Fargo, West Fargo), so a place to shoot will be greatly attended. The city mayor, Rich Mattern, along with the city council has been consulted and they have positively considered the matter. There is no opposition to the project as it is perceived as a great addition to the West Fargo community structure and recreational opportunities. In fact all interactions with the city have been favorable. City officials from the mayor on down have been helpful if not excited to have this range built in West Fargo.

Members of the board of directors of the Red River Regional Marksmanship Center (RRRMC) represent several clubs and organizations including Gateway Pistol, Moorhead Rod and Gun, Clearview Rifle, Plainsman Blackpowder, Boy Scouts and 4-H programs. All of these entities have expressed an interest in using this facility. Additionally, hunter education classes and coaching clinics will be held at the range. This effort serves to continue hunter skills improvement initiated for many in the hunter safety courses.

To further explore the possibility of this project the board engaged the services of Cordell Dick Consulting of Bismarck North Dakota, to conduct a limited feasibility study. The results of the study showed a high community desire for this project and an excellent probability that donations, along with Federal moneys will be enough to cover capitol costs of the project. The regions largest sporting goods retailer, Scheels, will be a large corporate sponsor of the shooting range. Scheels operates 24 stores in 7 states with 3,000 employees.

**OBJECTIVE**

To provide a safe and functional indoor shooting facility for public use for recreational shooting, firearm safety, and hunter education by providing a grant to RRRMC to erect a 156' x 106' indoor shooting range facility to include a classroom, restroom, office, utility, vault, and storage. The building will consist of pre-stressed concrete and steel materials. The grant will also fund the parking lot, outdoor lighting, and landscaping. A schematic floor plan of the building is attached. See attached detail construction plans.

The overall objective is to get the range, classrooms and offices operational by 10/31/09. The exterior finish work, parking lot paving and landscaping will be started in the spring of 2010.

## **EXPECTED RESULTS AND BENEFITS**

Maintenance and construction of shooting ranges with third party cooperators will further the development of firearm safety and marksmanship practices resulting in hunters afield who are more familiar with firearms and have increased their ability to harvest game. Adeptness to harvest game results in successful hunting and the likelihood of continued participation.

Talks are underway with law enforcement and other groups about leasing range time from the RRRMC and with the local college about restoring its rifle and pistol teams. An indoor range will allow the RRRMC to expand, improve and enhance the indoor shooting programs which are already offered, the junior marksmanship program and adult shooting programs. Youth programs will be a focus of the RRRMC, to include BB gun classes, basic marksmanship, small bore rifle and air gun; 4-H, Jaycees and scouting activities. The proposed range will provide recreational shooting, marksmanship classes and firearms safety education (Hunter Education and NRA), home firearms safety and personal protection for members and the public, year round.

At the completion of this shooting range its design will allow several organizations to use the facility at the same time. A typical evening may have a bullseye pistol club on range 1, a junior small-bore club on range 2, and a hunter education class or air gun shooting in the classroom. This design maximizes range use during the most popular times of the day.

The public are welcome to participate in scheduled shooting activities, clinics and courses. Regularly scheduled open shooting times will be posted. Both members and non-members will be required to attend a certification class and sign a certification document which will indicate compliance to safety and range rules.

## **LOCATION**

The address is: 640 16<sup>th</sup> St NE, West Fargo, ND 58078.

The legal description is: T139N, R49W, SW ¼ of Section 4 located in Cass County.

This lot is zoned heavy industrial and was located with the help of the West Fargo city planner. This location is within a 30-year old heavy industrial park. The state's largest construction company, Northern Improvement Company, operates a gravel pit adjacent to the east of the property. The south is bordered by a railroad track elevated upon an earthen causeway. Other industrial park occupants are agricultural and construction related businesses

## **APPROACH**

The RRRMC owns a parcel of land of about 150,000 square feet in West Fargo which is zoned heavy industrial. Preliminary permitting has been secured and zoning is appropriate for this facility. Adjacent

landowners are aware of and agreeable to the construction of an indoor shooting range. One neighbor is an NRA member and another is a RRRMC member. All the regional shooting groups and sporting goods retailers have been consulted with positive outcome. The city Planning, Public Works and Fire Departments have given conceptual approvals. Per review of the 7/16/2007 City Council minutes, a concrete crushing plant wanted to build next door to the RRRMC property and the permit was denied as the dust would greatly hinder the HEPA filtration dynamics.

The dimensions of the building will be 156' x 106'. The plan is to have one 50 foot firing range with 15 firing points. The building is designed for the possibility of expansion if needed in future years. The main shell of the building is to be built of precast concrete to prevent bullet escape. The classroom will be large enough to hold air gun matches and will be made of conventional construction as are the offices, utility, storage and restrooms. The building will also have a secure room (vault) and a viewing corridor. All facility access and use will be constructed for the mobility impaired. A schematic floor plan of the building is attached.

Construction will include excavation/gravel, the building precast shell, roof, classroom, office, restrooms, utility, vault, storage, HVAC, electrical, flooring, and the base for the parking lot will be installed and lighting. Also air handling, bullet trap, and deflectors will be purchased and installed. Finally, the parking lot will be paved and landscaping completed. The project total will be approximately \$1.6million. (See attachment.)

The RRRMC plans to hire contractors and break ground by May 1, 2009 or sooner depending on weather. The overall goal is to get the range, classrooms and offices operational by 10/31/09. The exterior finish work, parking lot paving and landscaping will be started in the spring of 2010.

## **IN-KIND & CASH MATCH**

The indoor shooting range funding will be matched at 25% from club treasury cash and donations.

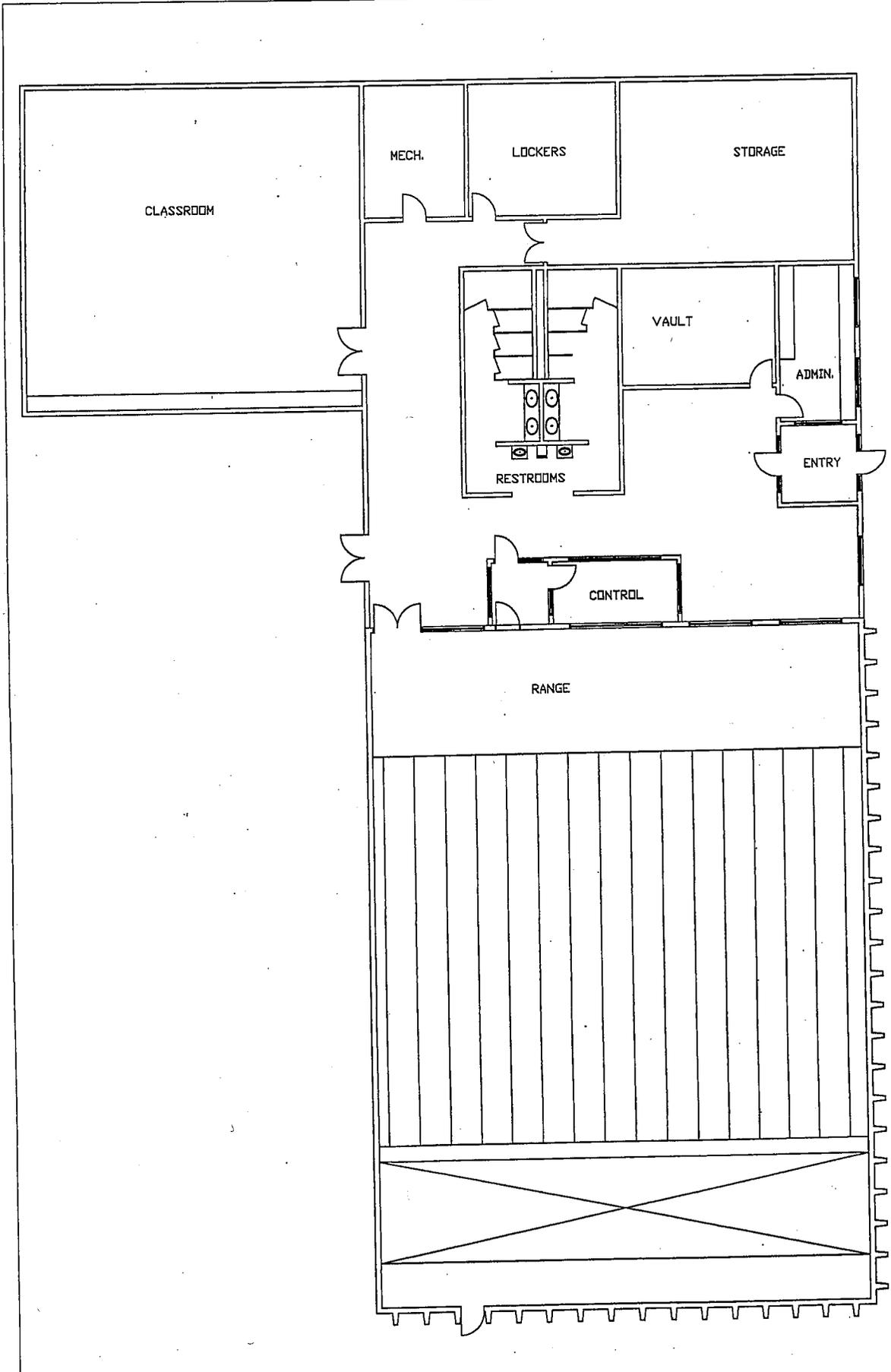
There also is the possibility of some in-kind volunteer labor or materials. In the event that volunteer labor is used as match, the in-kind rate for general labor will be calculated at the rate of a Wildlife Tech I of \$18/hr. (The in-kind rate for skilled laborers such as plumbers, electricians, etc. will be at the industry rate.) If/when volunteer hours or goods are accumulated; we will submit a revised budget with the information for you to update FAIMS. The grant won't need to be amended.

## **COST ESTIMATE**

<b><u>PHASE</u></b>	<b><u>HE Sect. 4</u></b>	<b><u>Sect. 10</u></b>	<b><u>RRRMC</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
Oblig. 1 (3/2009)*	\$ 140,000	\$80,000	\$ 73,334	\$ 293,334
Oblig. 2 (7/2009)*	\$ 140,000	\$160,000	\$1,005,686	\$1,305,686
TOTAL	\$ 280,000	\$240,000	\$1,079,020	\$1,599,020

\*We are requesting obligation of funds in 2 phases due to the State's biennium ending 6/30/09. We will only obligate funds through June 30, 2009 at this time. The grant will be amended July 1, 2009 to obligate the rest of the funds for the project.

**We are also requesting that pre-agreement costs for architectural and engineering design work be approved as part of this project of \$60,000.**





## Shooting Range Construction

### Compliance Issues

**Executive Order No. 11988, Floodplain Management.** Executive Order 11988 is not deemed applicable as all work activities are categorical exclusions and will not have any adverse impact on existing structures or facilities nor will they disrupt floodplain values.

**Executive Order No. 11990, Protection of Wetlands.** Executive Order 11990 is not applicable as all work activities are categorical exclusions and will not have any adverse impact on wetlands.

**Public Law 97-98, Farmland Protection Policy Act.** Unique farmlands are lands used for the production of specific high-value crops. No such lands will be negatively impacted by this project. This work will not take place on prime farmland.

**Endangered Species Act of 1973.** With the following exceptions, no federally listed threatened or endangered species or critical habitats occur within or adjacent to the areas affected by this project.

#### Exceptions:

1) Whooping crane (*Grus americana*). During migration whooping cranes have stopped for short periods in scattered areas of North Dakota. These birds are monitored by State and Federal enforcement and biological staff. This project will not have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species

2) Interior Least Tern and Piping Plover. These birds are known to occur on areas scattered in North Dakota. This project will not have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.

3) Western Prairie Fringed Orchid. These occur in Ransom and Richland counties. This project occurs in Burleigh County and will not have any impact.

4) Pallid Sturgeon, Sicklefin Chub and Sturgeon Chub – These species occur in the Missouri River, but will not be negatively impacted by this program.

5) Black-footed Ferret, Gray Wolf and Prairie Dog – Black-footed ferret are not currently known to inhabit North Dakota. Gray Wolf are not established in North Dakota. Occasionally individual animals travel through North Dakota from nearby established populations in other states. Prairie dogs are at scattered locations in the western half of North Dakota. Project work will not affect areas where these species are known to occur.

**Environmental Justice(Executive Order 12898):** This project will not have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on low income populations, minority populations, or Indian tribes.

RECEIVED INFA FEB 25 2

**Invasive Species(Executive Order 13112):** This project will not promote the introduction or spread of invasive species.

**NEPA Compliance**

Environmental considerations for this project involves work that is B(3) - The construction of new, or the addition of small structures or improvements for the restoration of wetland, riparian, in stream, or native habitats, which result in no or only minor changes in the use of the affected local area, it is excluded from NEPA documentation and an environmental assessment or impact statement is not required (Federal Register, Vol. 62, No. 11, Thursday, January 16, 1997).

The categorical exclusion limitations listed on p. 34 and 35 in the U.S. Department of Interior, USFWS publication entitled, "NEPA in Federal Aid Proposals, Guidance to the States, Sept. 1980," were considered for this amendment. No conflicts were seen. (See attached email and documentation in grant narrative.)

**State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) Review:** See attached letter.

RECEIVED INFA FEB 25 2009