

## Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

*Wildlife Restoration Project for Arizona Game and Fish Department  
Proposed Construction of the Second Knoll Target Range  
Lakeside Ranger District, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Navajo County, Arizona*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has prepared this document in accordance with procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as it applies to the Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration Acts (64 Stat. 430; 16 U.S.C. Sec. 777 et. Seq. and 50 State 916; 16 U.S.C. Sec. 669 et. Seq.).

A final Environmental Assessment entitled “Second Knoll Shooting Range” was prepared by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF) in compliance with NEPA to assist in agency decision-making in determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. The purpose of the proposed action is to promote opportunities for safe, educational, and family-oriented public shooting at a range in the Show Low/Pinetop-Lakeside area.

The 80-acre project area proposed for the shooting range is currently an inactive materials source cinder pit used by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for storage. ADOT would discontinue use of the area and cancel their special use permit, to allow for the authorization of the shooting range, if approved. The ASNFs would issue a special use permit to AGFD for operation of the shooting range on National Forest System lands. The term of the permit would be for a minimum of 20 years with a renewal option. The renewal option would specify that if AGFD complies with the permit terms and conditions and no upgrades or changes to the permit are proposed, the permit may be renewed after 20 years. The project includes the following components, described in the following sections:

1. Construction, operation, and maintenance of a shooting range
2. Site security
3. Use and maintenance of an existing access road

The shooting range construction plan would be prepared by a qualified engineer prior to construction and would implement the relevant industrial-site construction requirements, including but not limited to the National Shooting Sports Foundation’s *Environmental Aspects of Construction and Management of Outdoor Shooting Ranges* (1997), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) *Best Management Practices for Lead at Shooting Ranges* (2005), the National Rifle Association’s *Range Source Book* (2012), Navajo County Public Works/Planning and Zoning Department’s building and safety codes, and Forest Service construction best management practices.

Two alternatives were evaluated:

No Action – With this action, current ASNF management plans would continue to guide management of the project area. The proposed shooting range would not be developed, a U.S. Forest Service special use permit would not be issued, and existing land uses in the project area would continue. The existing uses include informal target shooting and materials sourcing by the

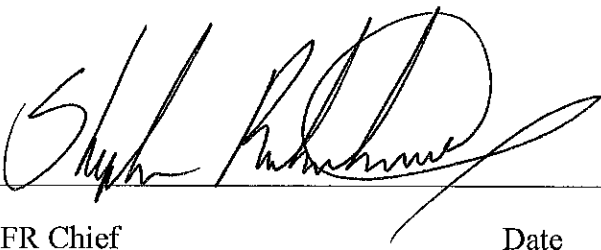
public. The inactive materials source cinder pit would continue to be managed by ADOT. The No Action alternative forms the baseline against which the potential impacts of the Proposed Action and any other action alternatives are compared. Thus, it includes current actions and activities in the project area. No activities would be implemented to accomplish the purpose and need of the project.

Proposed Action - The proposed action is to construct an 80-acre local community shooting range on lands managed by the Lakeside Ranger District of the ASNF. AGFD would partner through a lease agreement with the White Mountain Shooters Association for the long-term operation and maintenance of the proposed shooting range. The proposed shooting range would be operated year round.

Construction of the Second Knoll Target Range (Proposed Action) will not result in any significant adverse effects to floodplains, wetlands, prime or unique farmland; Federally-listed species; or archaeological, cultural, or historic resources.

Based on the review of the enclosed environmental assessment, I have determined that the construction of the Second Knoll Target Range Project under FW-100-P-22 is not a major federal action which would significantly affect 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 this project and that this project complies with the intent of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, Executive Order 11988 "Floodplain Management" and Executive Order 11990 "Protection of Wetlands."

The Environmental Assessment, prepared by the ASNF has been adopted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service according to rules contained in 40 CFR 1506.3. Accordingly, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed action is not required.

 4/13/15

WSFR Chief

Date

Supporting References:

USFS Decision Notice FONSI

EA Second Knoll Target Range