Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Wildlife Restoration Grant

Grant Number: AKW-11

Project Title: Section 4C Shooting Range Operations Grant

Project Duration: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Report Due Date: September 28, 2016

Principal Investigators: Jeff Jemison, John Wyman, Ginamaria Smith

Work Location: Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING LAST SEGMENT

Objective 1: Montana Creek Range, Juneau

Objective 2: Rabbit Creek Range, Anchorage

Objective 3: Hunter Education Indoor Shooting Range, Fairbanks

II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON JOBS IDENTIFIED IN ANNUAL PLAN THIS PERIOD

Objective 1: Montana Creek Range, Juneau

Accomplishments:

Classroom & range usage:
- Hunter Education instructor trainings
- Hunter Education public classes
- FD & DH Middle school entire 6th grade hunter education
- ADFG Alaskan’s Afield clinics
- ADFG Waterfowl, deer and bear hunting clinics
- ADFG DMT & HIT staff meetings
- Thunder Mt. High School rifle team
- DH Middle School rifle team
- SEAK Middle School rifle competition
- Juneau Police Department coop training on live-fire-range
- Governor’s security detail live-fire trainings
- NRA pistol instructor training
- Private rentals
OBJECTIVE 2: Rabbit Creek Range, Anchorage

Accomplishments:

In FY16, the Rabbit Creek Shooting Park (RCSP) provided range facilities for 36,249 public users. The users, many of them return or repeat customers, used the shotgun, handgun, rifle, rimfire, and archery range facilities to practice and improve their marksmanship skills. The users were mainly hunters and recreational shooters, with a number of them being first-time firearm owners. The ranges were run safely and efficiently by four state employees and 22 volunteer Range Safety Officers (RSO). The staff and volunteer RSO’s oversaw the maintenance of all ranges, ensured safe firearm handling by all users, and assisted users with firearm questions.

RCSP has 25-yard and 50-yard instructional ranges that can only be reserved and utilized by certified firearms instructors. The instructional ranges were utilized by 98 instructors for government or private firearm safety training courses, many of them making use of the instructional ranges multiple times throughout the year. These ranges were also utilized by the Hunter Information & Training (HIT) Program for hunter education and muzzleloader education classes. 45 classes were offered and 742 students obtained their hunter education and muzzleloader education certifications.

The ranges and Hunter Education building at RCSP were also used by the HIT Program for a multitude of activities, including:

- Bowhunter education certification classes
- Youth shotgun leagues
- Youth rimfire leagues
- Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) clinics
- Hunter clinics
- Outdoor Youth Days Camp
- Sighting-In Day

OBJECTIVE 3: Hunter Education Indoor Shooting Range, Fairbanks

Accomplishments:

In addition to operating walk-in, public, shooting hours for the community, the Fairbanks range hosted the following courses/events, organized and conducted through ADF&G, at the Hunter Education Indoor Shooting Range (HEDR):

- ADF&G Basic Hunter Education classes
- ADF&G Bow Hunter Education classes
- ADF&G Muzzleloader Education classes
• ADF&G Field Day courses
• ADF&G Field Day for UAF Wildlife Students
• ADF&G Hunter Information and Training Instructor Certification
• ADF&G HEDR Firearms Safety Orientations for patrons
• ADF&G Firearms and Bear Safety Training for department employees
• NRA First Steps Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun courses
• NRA Range Safety Officer certification courses
• NRA Firearms Instructor certification courses
• Winchester/NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program
• Alaska Firearm Safety Program
• Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) and Beyond BOW events
• Workshops/Training including:
  o Wildlife Welfare Training, Wildlife Disease Workshop, Wildlife Research Workshop, State Pilot Safety, Regulations Workshop, ADF&G (and ATA) Snaring Workshop, ADF&G (and ATA) Fur Handling Workshop, First-Aid/CPR

Fairbanks hosted the following events at the Hunter Education Indoor Shooting Range:

• NRA Firearms Instructor Courses for Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun, Home Firearm Safety
• NRA Ladies Basic Pistol Classes
• NRA Basic Pistol Courses
• NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge State Championship (state headquarters)
• NRA Sanctioned Indoor Pistol Leagues (Alaska’s most popular)
• Firearms Safety Training/qualification/practice for various agencies, organizations and law enforcement
• High School Rifle Team Practice Sessions and Matches
• Youth Rifle Shooting Clubs/Groups
• USPSA Shooting Matches
• USPSA Range Officer Courses
• Bear Safety with Shotgun Classes
• Junior Olympic rifle shooting training (JORC)

Fairbanks worked in cooperation with the following agencies and organizations:

• Federal Court Security Officers
• UAF Police Department
• Fairbanks Police Department
• Alaska State Troopers
• Alaska Peace Officers Association
• State of Alaska, Department of Corrections
• Fairbanks North Star Borough
• Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
• Bureau of Land Management
III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

This project was originally planned as part of our annual Wildlife Restoration operations grant, but we are going a different route and will be ending this grant.

Prepared by: Nathan Soboleff

Date: September 22, 2016