

Meeting Date: May 6, 2021

Agenda Item No. 5.A.

Agenda Item: FY22 Shooting Range Grant Funding
Recommendations for Commission Approval

Bureau Chief Approval: PK

Prepared by: Sharon W. Kiefer

Background: Staff briefed the Commission in November 2020 and March 2021 about House Bill 396 revisions to the IDFG shooting range grant program. House Bill 396 was passed by the 2020 Idaho Legislature and supported by the Commission. Program revisions included formation of a new committee including recreational shooters to provide recommendations to the Director about funding range grant applications and also included a requirement for the Commission to approve each year's funding.

The Pittman-Robertson (PR) funding available for FY22 is \$455,000, similar to recent years. Due to delays in court proceedings, staff projects that Fine & Forfeiture funding for FY22 will be about \$50,000, less than recent years of up to \$120,000. Total funds available for FY22 applications are projected to range from \$485,000 to \$505,000.

Staff also provided an update to the Commission in March 2021 about the work of the Director-appointed Range Grant Citizen Advisory Committee (Committee) that includes both recreational and competitive shooters with extensive range experience and knowledge. The Committee met four times during January to March and they concluded their funding recommendations on March 30. The Committee funding recommendations for the FY22 range grants were presented to the Director in early April.

Of the nineteen applications considered for range grant funding, the Committee reached a consensus recommendation to fund twelve of the applications. The Committee did not reach consensus for three applications. The recommendations from IDFG staff's evaluation of the range grant applications were generally similar the Committee's recommendations. The Committee provided valuable perspective and expertise for the Range Grant approval process.

Table 1 is the Director's recommendation to the Commission to fund the FY22 range grant applications that had either consensus or mixed recommendation for funding from the Committee. A total of fifteen applications requesting \$466,300 is recommended for funding.

Four of the range grant applicants (Valley County Gun Club, Elmore Sportsman's Association Shooting Complex, Magic Valley Bowhunters, and Butte County Sheriff's Office) were not recommended for funding by the Committee or department staff because of either W-9 ineligibility or insufficient demonstration of reasonable public access. Lack of a funding recommendation for FY22 does not preclude any of the applicants from applying for range grant funding in the future.

Three applications for range grant funding were not considered by the Committee because they were funded with discretionary funds separate from the Shooting Range Fund. Projects funded this way included CXT toilets for the Lemhi County Shooting Range (Salmon Region), the Blacks Creek Shooting Range (Southwest Region), and the Boise River WMA

Archery Range (Southwest Region). The Department also funded Conex storage boxes and new 3D targets for the Boise River WMA Archery Range.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues: House Bill 396 created new authority and policy for the Commission to implement in concert with the Director. Specifically, the Commission is charged with approving Range Grant funding to applicants each year.

Public Involvement Process: The Committee meetings were open to the public to attend either in-person or via Zoom, but were lightly attended.

Staff Recommendation: Proceed with approving funding for FY22 range grant applications.

Justification: Implementation of House Bill 396 necessary to comply with new law.

Recommended Motion: I move the Commission approves the Director's Range Grant Funding Recommendations in Table 1 and the Director retains discretion for assigning the grant funding source. I also move that the Commission thanks the Range Grant Citizen Advisory Committee for their valuable assistance to the Director for the approved recommendations.