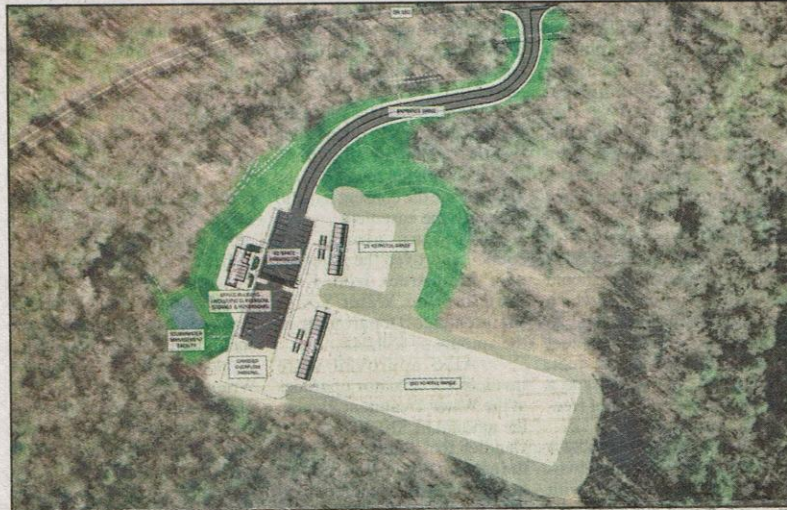


Wednesday, April 20, 2022

County range moves closer to construction with RFP



The overall site plan for the Union County Shooting Range Complex to be built off Georgia 180.

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Starting April 20, the Union County Government is officially re-bidding the

construction project to build the Union County Gun Range, to be located on a 14-acre piece of U.S. Forest Service land off SR 180 between mile markers 18 and 19.

As recently as last

week, the local issuance of a "Request for Proposal" to build the range had been awaiting a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant funding amendment to increase the

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amount of federal passthrough dollars to be administered by Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

That grant amendment – upping federal funding from 75% to 90% for a 15% reduction in required local match monies – arrived in the county April 12, serving as the last remaining puzzle

piece falling into place for the Commissioner's Office to re-bid range construction.

"I was sitting on ready for everyone involved to get the RFP out as soon as possible," Union County Purchasing Agent Pam Hawkins said last week. "The RFP documents, including design drawings and specs, will be on our website

and the Georgia Procurement Registry Wednesday.

"There will be a pre-proposal meeting for interested contractors on May 5 at 2 p.m. Proposals are due to our office by May 24 at 4 p.m. If we get more than one proposal, we could potentially award it to a contractor in the June or July county meeting, then be able to issue a notice to proceed by August.

"So, a contractor should

begin on this project in the fall. We will be giving them 12 months to complete the project."

The gun range went through an initial round of bidding last fall, and the county received a single bid on the project at higher than projected costs due to inflation and supply chain shortages. Securing increased grant funding has enabled the current re-bidding process.

As background, federal grants for projects like the gun range are made possible by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, which enables the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to appropriate funds from excise taxes on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment.

Key features of the range, which has been in the works since the founding of the Union County Gun Club in 2017, will include independently operated rifle and pistol ranges, sound abatement, full-size bathrooms, climate-controlled meeting and supply rooms, ample parking and more.

For more information and to examine the Request for Proposal and accompanying documents when everything goes live April 20, visit unioncountyga.gov or head over to the Union County Commissioner's Office at 65 Courthouse Street inside the courthouse.