Cathy Scott

County Road 5

**Manchester Creek Trail Head**

I came to the 11-15-23 United States Forest Service Dispersed Target Shooting Meeting due to **Safety!**

Thank you for setting up the meeting….greatly appreciated!!!!!

Our front door is 80 yards from our property line along the National Forest where we have constant unsafe encounters with shooters. (We have many stories)

*MAIN CONCERNS:*

**TOTAL DISREARD AND RESPECT FOR SAFETY:**

Shooters have a total disregard/respect for other visitors, the forest, surrounding property owners and the National Forest rules.

It is no longer safe to hike, camp, jog, bike or walk a dog on the trails due to shooters and out of control speeding ATV’s/dirt bikes.

***Those following the rules can no longer enjoy the forest because of those who break the rules!!!***

**OUTDATED FOREST RULES/LAWS/REGULATIONS:**

The current National Forest rules/laws/regulations in regards to dispersed shooting are obsolete in **today’s hyper gun society.**

EX: A bullet can travel a mile or 1760 yards

Current rules require shooters to be only 150 yards from a house on private property, trails, camp sites, etc………….this rule is NOT followed…….we are unsafe from stray bullets on our own property!

**RULES/LAWS/REGULATIONS WITHOUT ENFORCEMENT ARE MEANINGLESS:**

There is little to no penalty to the shooters so they become more embolden……to behave however they wish on Public Lands!

* Penalties should be huge in dollar (thousands not hundreds). Double for second offense.
* Penalties should include substantial community service where they are out cleaning up the forest……picking up shell casings/discarded trash/fire mitigation.
* Each trailhead should dominantly advertise trailhead rules, violator number (do we call sheriff or National Forest), and penalties.

Tag a few violators and word will spread.

Target a problem trailhead each weekend, fines cover personnel cost.

**There is a lack of personnel, especially on the weekends, to ensure everyone can safely use the forest.**

**Increase forest fees/penalties to cover the cost…..**

**SHOOTING RANGE PROPOSAL:**

This along with strict enforcement seems like a common sense proposal to the shooting safety issues!!!

There are thousands of forest acers……there is no reason for shooting to occur anywhere near private properties, trails, campsites.

**There should also be “no motorized” roads/trails at each trailhead** so those who jog, hike, bike, walk dogs don’t worry about getting run over by out of control speeding ATV’s/dirt bikes.

Many non-motor users no longer use/enjoy the forest due to safety concerns……. too many close calls!!!!

**IN APPRECIATION:**

**The efforts of all National Forest personnel is greatly appreciated!!!**

Dealing with the public is no easy task.

Inadequate funding just adds to the issues.