From: [redacted]
To: Frank.mcgee@state.co.us; Davis, Mary - FS
Subject: Fwd: Integrated Management of Target Shooting
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 12:12:00 AM
Attachments: PastedGraphic-3.png

Another email:)

Deon Kuhl
CPW Technology Liaison
[redacted] | cpw.state.co.us

Under the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA), all messages sent by or to me on this state-owned e-mail account may be subject to public disclosure.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Chris Miller** <[redacted]>
Date: Sun, Feb 21, 2021 at 8:15 PM
Subject: Integrated Management of Target Shooting
To: <[redacted]

Dear Mr. Kuhl

I am writing in regard to the Integrated Management of Target Shooting on the Pike National Forest. Bear Trap Ranch is host to hundreds of guests each year who come to enjoy a peaceful and relaxing retreat in the rocky mountains. We are located just off of Old Stage Road in El Paso County (please see attached map). Due to our close proximity to Old Stage Road, we have experienced a number of target shooting related incidents that concern us greatly:

First, an area exists only a half mile from our facilities (adjacent to Old Stage Road) that has been used regularly for illegal target shooting. Sometimes those engaged in shooting will wander closer to our retreat center, creating very loud gunshots that are frightening to guests, staff and children. Occasionally these gunshots are heard well into the middle of the night! On at least one occasion, projectiles were heard hitting off of our office building. This obviously puts our guests and staff directly in harms way.

Second, the nearby shooting has harmed our business by preventing certain groups from utilizing Bear Trap Ranch for their programs. For example, an organization that serves veterans suffering from PTSD was planning to have us host their retreat. However, when they came to tour our site and heard the nearby shooting, they immediately concluded that such an environment would certainly hinder, rather than help their efforts to provide recovery for these suffering veterans. Their retreat plans were then moved to another location and another contract for Bear Trap Ranch was lost.

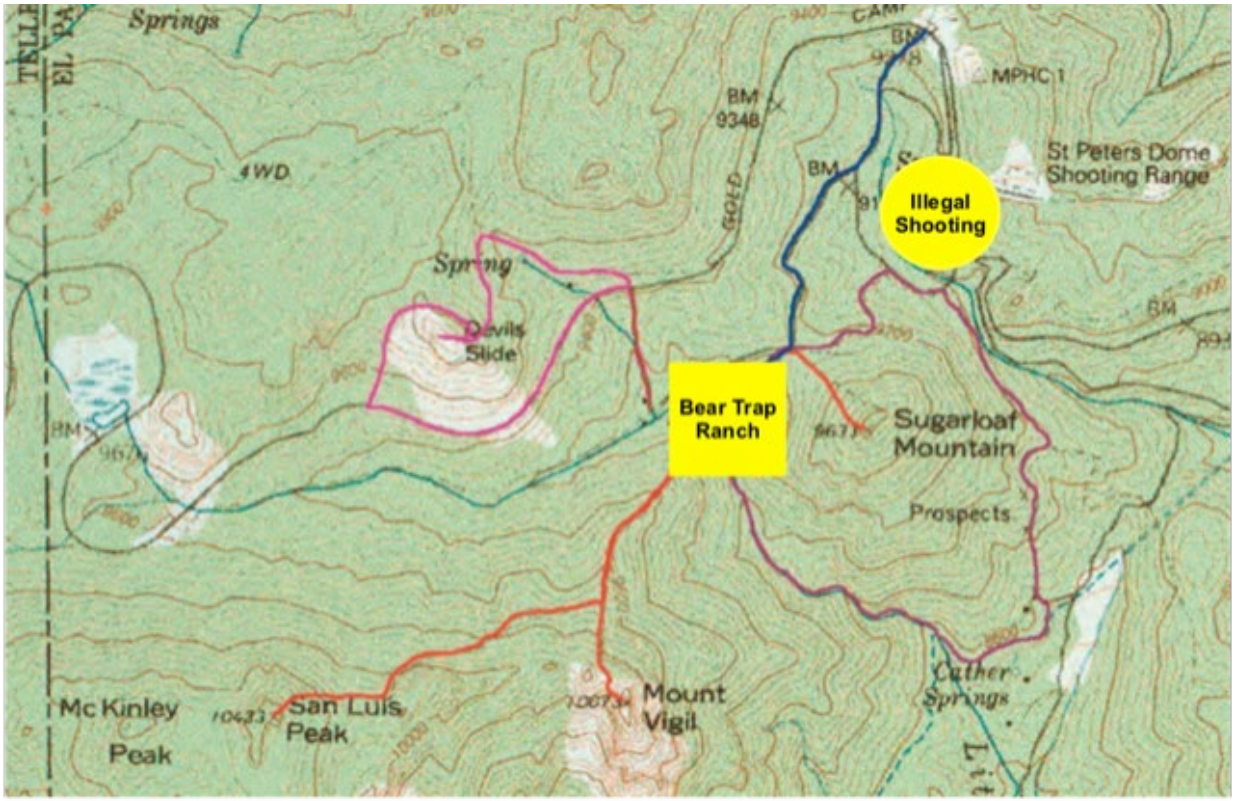
Third, Bear Trap Ranch provides a location for hikes to several nearby peaks, including Devil's Slide, Vigil, and San Louis. However, with gunshots nearby, guests become understandably frightened and reluctant to venture onto the trails and enjoy the beauty of this national forest land. In fact, when my wife was recently a patient at Penrose Hospital, an occupational therapist expressed to my wife how much she used to enjoy hiking in the area

near our retreat center, but now all of the gunfire has made her too afraid to venture out onto the trails.

In light of these concerns, it is our hope that the U. S. Forest Service will assist in resolving these issues created by unmanaged shooting areas such as the one located near Bear Trap Ranch. We enthusiastically support these efforts which will not only preserve the beauty of the National Forest, but also help protect the guests and families who stay at Bear Trap Ranch. Thank you for taking the time to put together the webinar and thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Best Regards,

Chris Miller
Director, Bear Trap Ranch



Proximity of illegal shooting to Bear Trap Ranch

Chris Miller
Bear Trap Ranch Director
[redacted]
www.BearTrapRanch.org