

Mrs. Joan Roses

February 22, 2021

Jennifer DeWoody, Project Team Leader
USDA Forest Service

RE: Proposed Turkey Tracks Shooting Range

As a permanent residents in the Turkey Rock Ranch area of Woodland Park since 2013 and having the forest nearby / in the back yard, my husband and I have often heard gun shots in the forest in our immediate area and even automatic weapons...

We have always called 911 every time on these very scary and dangerous matters and the proposed range while a good idea in THEORY has too many issues of concern to be a good idea anywhere near this area.

It is VERY Close to Too many residential areas.

The traffic is already an issue and this seems to be only going to make it all worse.

Though Turkey Rock Ranch is 5 miles in from Westcreek/Hwy 67... For over a year now, REGULARLY there are people that drive into the development and see that there is no forest access or whatever else they are looking for...and that it is a residential neighborhood and they turn around across the street Or In My Driveway!... This is quite annoying Already and I can only imagine it will get worse when you start bringing UNTOLD NUMBERS of others into this vicinity.

This January 31, 2021, around 8 pm on a Sunday night there was some stranger pounding up and down peoples staircases and ringing doorbells looking to enter people's homes, to deliver a package to some non-existent address here. This kind of nonsense besides being dreadfully scary is likely to continue when you bring in untold numbers of strangers into this vicinity.

Noise, neighborhood safety, and demands on our Already Very Busy Mountain Community Volunteer Fire Department seem to be future overwhelming issues if these proposals proceed as planned it will be overwhelming on the neighborhoods and totally and completely unacceptable.

Coming N on Hwy 67, last year I was witness to a major accident on the curves in the road just before the turn to Westcreek. Tooo regularly our first responders have traffic issues on this windy, only-2-lane road ALREADY, and you propose bringing in untold numbers of others to this area. NO WAY! This area cannot handle it.

And there ARE rumble strips dug into and across the road and flashing yellow lights as warnings and Still we have these road accidents... with your proposal on this mountainous windy roads it will continue to exacerbate traffic safety concerns, endangering all.

Evening of August 12, 2020 I was harassed on Hwy 67 for about HALF AN HOUR by probably a visitor to our area in a large truck trying to force me to stop and was threatening and intimidating me for nearly half an hour tailing me along the roads... I drove to the Woodland Park police station to report this terrifying incident, and was finally escorted home by the Sheriff's dept. We don't need more people coming here looking for trouble on these already narrow and curvy mountain roads...

Also I know our MCVFD has regularly attended to fires at your proposed location and fires in this land locked, only one-way in and out development are horrendously scary and endangers the entire community and vicinity.

Two other Turkey Rock neighbors that I know of here have already had gun related issues. One resident had a stray bullet go thru her window and land near where she and her dog were in the living room, it's a miracle neither was killed! Another gentleman had target shooting going off nearby his home and it terrified him for the safety of his grandchildren.

We moved here with my husband's Military PTSD for QUIET and the volume of additional traffic that your proposal will generate to this region is going to be WAAAAYYYY too much for the circumstances present here to handle.

WHY can't this be closer to the urban areas... so we can keep our rural life Quiet & Rural!

It is inevitable and unfortunate that this IS going to over flow into the surrounding areas... and it has already since the ATV trails went in WITHOUT NOTIFYING US here in Turkey Rock Ranch of THAT!!!

It's good to have a designated area for shooting but the plans seem MUCH TO EXTENSIVE in that area and funneling everyone into 1 area is going to exponentially surge the volume/traffic...HORRORS!!! And IT WILL Extend into the nearby neighborhoods!

And on your Maps... it's not clear EXACTLY WHERE Off 67 this is... But I do believe it is on the WEST side but you say it's South East of Westcreek... That is a bad mistake to make!

It would be nice if wherever you decide to site this range if the residential neighbors had free access but surely there needs to be a locked gate and Forest Service gatekeeper attendant and monitoring and control for quantity of people/vehicles there. Absolutely strict time limits on hours of daylight use, and a RESERVATION PLAN FOR ENTRY Seems Essential, along with monitoring of No Alcohol. And CLOSED and monitored on Fire Hazard/dry days and seasons.

The noise to those especially close will be devastating. I agree with this Trout Creek Ranch comment: *The site should be no larger or extensive than can be successfully engineered for extensive sound mitigation. Sound should not travel more than 1/2 mile in any direction.*

The MCVFD has plenty on their plate already, this extra burden seems totally unfair and it is likely they WILL be tied up at the shooting range more regularly. If others living in this territory are in need of emergency assistance Heaven forbid this will be A Serious Problem for the locals.

And people ARE going to sometimes be stupid and do stupid things... all the more reasons to **LIMIT THE SIZE/SCOPE OF THIS SITE!!! OR NOT HAVE IT AT TURKEY TRAKS LOCATION AT ALL.** Again MCVFD HAS ENOUGH TO DO ALREADY!!! Their wisdom and concerns MUST Be Given Full Implementation. And WHY is the Forest Service not already enlisting the input of all the existing local resources.. **THEY KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE AREA ALREADY..** Let alone an increased volume... **SEEMS WAAAYY TOO MUCH FOLKS!**

I Absolutely Agree with MCVFD Chief Steve Brown: *Traffic issues can become a problem as more traffic from the front range is directed toward the Turkey Tracks shooting range. If there is not capacity on the site to allow the traffic to enter, backups will occur on Highway 67 along with increasing traffic on all arterial roads. Two serious accidents have happened at the intersection of FR343 and Highway 67 in the last two years.*
THE TRAFFIC VOLUME WILL BE DEVASTING TO THE AREA AND MUST BE STRICTLY LIMITED, MONITORED AND CONTROLLED with a reservation system for all.

And again.. maybe better NOT at this local at all.

I AGREE WITH THIS TROUT CREEK RANCH RESIDENT:

I reject that the Turkey Tracks shooting area is the best site. It should be reduced or shut down, not expanded. Why is the largest proposed shooting facility in an area with residences on four sides? Trout Creek Ranches, Westcreek, Turkey Rock, Ridgewood and Rainbow Falls are all impacted. Traffic and use continues to increase. Increasing the size of the facility will naturally bring more traffic along single lane winding roads. Neighborhoods along SR 126, Hwy 67, Pine Creek Rd and North Platte River Road will all be impacted. Why is there no proposed facility closer to the metro area?

SAFETY IS A HUGE CONCERN AS WELL AS NOISE & TRAFFIC

When RESERVING SPACE THEY NEED TO BE TOLD THAT THERE IS NO CELL SERVICE AVAILABLE IN THE AREA, AND WE DON'T WANT IT AVAILABLE!!! **RURAL REMEMBER!!!** And they need to be told that there will be delays should any emergencies arise.

All ATV AREAS nearby NEED TO BE TOLD NO SHOOTING!

The volume of trash left behind by target shooters is multitudes higher than all other forest usages combined. Friends of the Forest volunteer group periodically cleans up the range and hauls off 40 to 50 tons of trash each time. Televisions, appliances, and plumbing fixtures are often left behind by shooters.

THIS IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!!! And Yet another reason for SEVERELY LIMITING THE SIZE OF THIS SITE, or again BETTER NOT HAVE IT HERE.

Focus of the Forest: This volunteer group cleans the Turkey Tracks shooting area 3-4 times annually with approximately 50 yards of trash each time. This effort involves over 1000 volunteer hours per year. 1000 hours of clean up already!!!! And you want to expand the size/scope...Seems outrageous!

I was horrified at the Vegetation Damage your photos revealed.

YET ANOTHER REASON to LIMIT USAGE.. Because even on a monitored site.. people will be/do stupid things.

The shooting range has a direct impact on home/property values. Property values are sure to decline as the shooting range usage goes up. More bad news and again why the size/scope MUST BE STRICTLY LIMITED, OR NOT HERE AT ALL.

Hopefully the USFS will live up to its desire for enduring relationships with the neighbors.

THESE ALL SEEM VERY REASONABLE & SHOULD BE INSTITUTED IF using this site:

- Hours of Operation: The shooting range should have hours of operation of 8:00 AM to 6:00 pm. The gate along highway 67 should be locked outside of these hours.
- Onsite Management: The site needs to have a management official on site at all times to monitor shooting activities, make sure trash is removed, have fire suppression equipment on site, and have radio access to emergency resources. The Focus on the Forest volunteer group would like to have a booth installed at the shooting range entrance that they can hopefully man with volunteers to help manage the site.
- I think it should be free for the immediate residential areas that are impacted by this Westcreek, Turkey Rock...etc...Pay to Use: Like other fee areas in the national forest this should be no exception. It cost \$7 to have a picnic at Manitou Lake, but target shooting is free. The on Forest Service people can collect the fee.
- Control the volume of shooters: This is where the forest service needs to additional studies. There is no way that a shooting range that has high usage under existing circumstances is going to be able to handle the volume of shooters once the rest of the forest is closed to shooting. There will be conflicts for shooters trying to get access to the range. Some of the groups can occupy a range for the entire day.

- Reservation system: A reservation system should be implemented to provide shooters a window of time to occupy a certain range. The forest service does not owe every shooter a place to shoot at their convenience. Just like a sportsman can't shoot any animal they want at anytime.
- Trash disposal and a sanitary way for shooters to relieve themselves.
- Don't mix OHV's and Target Shooters: Close FR 343 at the Teller County line to FR 343B. Provide portable toilets and dumpsters: Keep the site clean by providing a way to dispose of This will keep the popular OHV route on FR 343B away from the shooting range. This will also keep the target shooters from spilling over into the rugged terrain on the Teller County portion of FR 343.
- Spillover: Prevent spillover into surrounding areas (FR 343, Painted Rocks Rd, 9J Rd, Stump Rd,) To prevent spillover out the south side of the range and prevent OTV's and shooter conflicts, FR 343 should be closed at the south end of the shooting range to FR 343B. Also to have signage that ATV trails on the east side of Hwy 67 are also CLOSED to dispersed shooting. The surrounding areas around the proposed shooting range needs to be closed to dispersed shooting.

Alternative Sites: Why is the forest service planning to do a costly shooting range development at Turkey Tracks when there are plenty of areas in the Pike National Forest where a range complex could be placed FAR AWAY FROM THE POPULATION?

ANOTHER LOCATION WOULD BE PREFERABLE... THIS IS TOO CLOSE TO EXISTING RESIDENCES!

In light of ALLL of these serious concerns I hope you will FIND ANOTHER LOCATION FOR A SHOOTING RANGE... This is JUST TOOOO CLOSE TO NEIGHBORS and Already Hazardous Road Conditions to be a safe and compatible site in this area!

It Will Just Cause Neighborhood HAVOC and Endangerment!

Sincerely,

Joan Roses