

December 23, 2024

USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region,
Attn: Reviewing Officer,
c/o Director of Strategic Planning,
1617 Cole Blvd., Bldg. 17,
Lakewood, CO 80401

RE: Objection on the Integrated Management of Target Shooting on the Pike National Forest

Thank you for the hard work and perseverance the Forest Service has put into this process. Your commitment and dedication to working with all stakeholders and working through all the parameters of this process is commendable! Recreational shooting is no easy challenge to manage.

Looking back over the eight-year process to get to this point, Douglas County elected officials and staff are glad to have walked with the Forest Service and other partners to contribute to this solution. Douglas County will continue to offer partnership through implementation and over the long haul with continuing management.

While in some ways, it is disappointing to see the end of dispersed shooting over much of the Pike National Forest, it is exciting to see the approval of six new shooting range locations. This decision marks the transition from one era of recreational shooting into the next. The future looks bright considering the thoughtful provisions the Forest Service has incorporated into this decision. The County elected officials and staff wish to thank your personnel for your balance in accommodating recreational shooting opportunities while protecting natural resources and public safety, and deconflicting the multitude of recreational uses on the national forest while providing for the peace and safety of adjacent landowners.

Douglas County would like to file a general objection. The County is not objecting to any particular provision of the draft decision or FONSI. Rather, our purpose is to maintain the County's involvement in the process through the objection period in case other objections initiate last minute changes. Douglas County has made substantive comments during all open comment phases, and has participated in ancillary aspects of this project, including funding historic and cultural reviews for proposed range sites and conducting traffic studies, sound modeling and shooting range design, establishing legal standing for this objection. Andy Hough will be the lead objector on this project. Please contact him if there are any significant changes through the objection period.

Once again, thank you for your diligence and perseverance in this lengthy process. The culmination is as good an outcome as anyone could expect.

Respectfully,



George Teah
Chair,
Douglas County Board of Commissioners