Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/15/2020 7:00:00 AM
First name: Betty
Last name: Nixon
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Please see attached.

Indiscriminate and Irresponsible Target Shooting in the Forest & Campfire Left Smoldering by Turkey Hunters/Campers

In your environmental assessment, please include a study of the impact of indiscriminate and irresponsible target shooting in the forest. I've attached photos of a live pine tree that was shot up, examples of targets and shell casings left behind by irresponsible target shooters and signs shot up. Indiscriminate and irresponsible shooting in the forest does fall within the scope of this project, as it does impact the safety, serenity and well-being of the horses, all wildlife and even people visiting the forest. During one incident, I came upon a man dressed out in camouflage gear and shooting a high-powered rifle into the forest. He did not have a backdrop of any kind to stop the bullets from traveling deep into the forest. I approached him and asked him how did he know there weren't people out there. His response was, "Well, there could be." And then he asked me, "Are there any people out there?" He was the one firing a high-powered rifle...he's the one who should have known what was in the direction he was firing. I had just come from that direction where I had been observing wild horses. Afterwards, I did search the area in the direction he had been shooting to ensure the horses had made it out safely. I have also included a photo of a campfire that was left smoldering by turkey hunters/campers in the forest. Forest fire is a huge concern for everyone's safety. Forest Service Law Enforcement responded, along with a wet truck, and extinguished the fire. Irresponsible campers pose a grave threat to the forest and its inhabitants and visitors, a potentially catastrophic environmental impact that needs to be addressed.

Live pine tree where target was bolted to the tree and the tree was badly damaged by irresponsible target shooter(s):

Attachment: IMAGES in attachment