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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I wholeheartedly support the proposed effort to create a managed shooting range at Turkey Tracks in Douglas County. My reasons for this support are provided in the attached document. In summary the proposal will eliminate many of the current problems and hazards that the unsupervised site has.

[TEXT FROM ATTACHMENT]

These are my concerns with the proposed Turkey Tracks shooting plan.

\* Noise: Having a regulated, officially monitored range will have an immediate POSITIVE effect on the noise that emanates from the range. Currently, shooting noise is heard 24/7/365 because shooters come at all times day/night/ and all days of the year. Having a set time will dramatically REDUCE the current noise levels.

\* Capacity: The proposed design will segregate shooters/archers into their respective weapons/distances. It will BETTER manage the crowds that already do show up.

\* Trash and Environmental: Again, the proposed design will nearly eliminate the toxic waste dump that has arisen at the unregulated current site. Explosive targets and ammunition will be ELIMINATED.

\* Safety: Will also be EXPONENTIALLY IMPROVED because of better management of the site and prohibition of alcohol/illegal firearms and ammunition.

\* Property Values: Will not be affected any more than current conditions. We listen to motorcycles, hot rods, ATVs, low flying helicopters and C-130s performing mountain ops training nearly every day that creates much more disturbing noise.

\* Wildland Fires: Again, the proposed design will MITIGATE current dangerous conditions where wildfires have been occurring almost seasonally due to illegal explosive ammunition and targets.

\* Impact on Local Resources: Creation of this proposed range will DEMAND that improved cell phone coverage be provided, not only to the range, but to the local area. We have tried for years to get the necessary repeaters for cell phone service in these parts of Douglas/Teller counties to no avail. This will provide the necessary impetus to get it done.

\* Management of Site: The site MUST have set hours of operation, onsite staff, fees charged to cover costs associated with the site, locked gates after hours, reservation system to avoid overcrowding, onsite portable toilets, onsite dumpster, and onsite fire suppression equipment. A percentage of user fees should be used to reimburse local resources. Shooter education with signage as to what is expected from shooters using the range. All of this is called [ldquo]management[rdquo].

\* Spillover: Safety spillover into surrounding areas must be considered including signage that ATV trails on the east side of Hwy 67 are CLOSED to dispersed shooting. Actually, those others enjoying the Peak National Forest will be LESS EXPOSED to hazardous shooting because it will be restricted to the range.

\* Transparency: This proposed design conforms entirely to the [ldquo]for comment[rdquo] approach to the development of new programs and rules. We appreciate the USFS[rsquo]s transparent approach to this development.

\* IN SUM: This proposed shooting range is WHAT WE HAVE NEEDED FOR QUITE SOME TIME. It will address most, if not all of the concerns that we (in Ridgewood) have had for over a decade. Eliminating shooting in the areas around Ridgewood and relegating it to the new range will be IMMENSELY beneficial to our community. GET IT DONE!