

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/15/2021 7:00:00 AM

First name: Brigham

Last name: Briggs

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I've provided my comments in the attachment.

Regards,

Brigham Briggs

[TEXT FROM ATTACHMENT]

15 February, 2021

I'm writing as part of the commentary process, with several concerns and a few suggestions. I'm happy to be part of the process moving forward. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I'll start with the suggestions:

- * Designate or make many, many small sites in addition to some of the mega ranges. I want to go shoot by myself or a couple friends for an hour without all the hassle of a range like Cameo. I don't want to worry about waiting for a slot to open at Harris Park. I don't need a 1,000 yard range. Identify many good sites, get some earth moving equipment, make a backstop, and call it a day.

- * Ranges should be unsupervised. At a recent visit to the Cameo range, the range officers interrupted us several times just to chit chat. I know they were trying to be friendly but I'm not there to socialize with the range officers. I want to shoot on my own without anyone bothering me.

- * I've noticed that people haven't thought about targets, so they find stuff to shoot at the site, or to hang targets on, like wood pallets. At these smaller sites, put a few downed trees, or sections of trees, tree stumps, etc. for people to hang targets on. There are tens of thousands of them all over the forest. Saw them up and let people shoot at them or hang targets on them. Downed trees are going to decay anyway [ndash] put them to good use.

- * For pistol ranges, I prefer no concrete pad. It's safer to move between targets without having to worry about stepping on/off the concrete platform, or avoiding shooting stations, being on the ground in front of the concrete firing line, etc.

- * Toilet facilities at the large ranges are appreciated.

- * Steel targets are great fun. I recommend the ones that do not fall off when hit. Making the range cold to set them up after 30 seconds is much too disruptive and inconvenient. Stationary plate racks, dueling trees, spinners, etc are much better.

- * Speaking of targets, perhaps target companies would provide or discount their targets with an advertising agreement of some kind. Same with other sponsors to help offset cost.

- * Identify sites for night shooting. Many people have mounted lights and lasers, and we need to be able to practice self- and home-defense scenarios at night.

- * Design some ranges or bays where tracers, exploding targets, etc. can be used. They are hugely popular, and people want to shoot them (and often do illegally). I know I'd pay out of pocket to visit a range and shoot them. Your customers are telling you what they want, so give it to them.

- * Significantly increase awareness. When I moved here a few years ago, I had to stumble across info or learn by

trial and error. It's very easy and inexpensive to get the word out with digital ads these days, social media, etc.

* Use the littering movement as a model. Yes, there are fines, but mostly it was accomplished by education, awareness, promotion, etc. Like "Leave No Trace". More "Friends of Turkey Tracks" groups.

My concerns:

* Limiting shooting only hurts the good guys. The bad guys already violate the rules by shooting trees, leaving trash, etc. We are not the problem. But we are the ones being impacted.

* What recourse do shooters have? How are we represented? Need a way to engage shooters and give us equal footing with other forest users.

* Planned capacity of 3 ranges is far too low. I counted over 300 orange dots on the maps where dispersed shooting took place, and it's being reduced to just 3? Not nearly enough. Forbes reported that gun sales were up 40% in 2020; another article estimated 7 million new gun owners in 2020; between them both there are going to be a lot more shooters than there have been historically, and they will find ways to shoot. So encourage "good" shooting by building or designating far, far more than 3 sites.

*

The rationale put forward for this initiative doesn't really hold water when scrutinized.

- Unsafe? Compared to what? No rationale is provided, it's just declared to be unsafe. 10 people have died in back country skiing this season alone. Is that unsafe and being banned?

- More fires? More damage? Compared to what? Specific data isn't disclosed [ndash] it's just part of a Misc group.

- Unsustainable? By what standard? There are tens of thousands of dead and downed trees all over the forest from fires, beetles, winds [ndash] those are ok, but a few hundred downed by shooting are unacceptable? Paper / cardboard targets decompose after a few weeks or months [ndash] just like natural resources in the area so that is sustainable. Dead trees and stumps created by humans with a saw getting a Christmas tree near Buffalo Creek = good; dead trees and stumps created by humans with a gun = bad. So it's really not about the trees and stumps.