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Comments: [TEXT COPIED FROM ATTACHED FILE]

RE: Turkey Tracks Shooting area

Hello. The Amendment 2 (how it is written) states "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed". This has been interpreted to mean the right for people to possess weapons (arms) for their own defense. It has been argued that this Amendment is what protects the rights of other amendments.

While this right cannot and should not be infringed, it does not state that it is a right of a firearm owner to infringe upon the safety and wellbeing of other individuals. The Turkey Tracks shooting range is a benefit of area shooters to properly use their firearms in a safe and reasonable manner. Area residents and users of the surrounding National park have the right to expect quiet usage of their land and safety for themselves while taking advantage of the surrounding area. The use of the shooting range is a benefit and not a right.

The range is government owned and controlled (for the benefit of users, courtesy of tax payers). The USFS has a responsibility to ensure safe and proper usage of this public area. It would seem to be in the interest of all involved if the following were considered:

Have designated shooting lanes, with proper backstops. This will also aid in EPA concerns for lead pollution in the area with a more controlled clean up situation. Many area residents are on wells and lead based pollution may be a concern.

Have designated range use times. This is for the benefit of range users and for area residents. There is limited reason to be shooting at night unless night time firing training is being conducted. Part of the shooters code states "Be aware of your target and what is beyond it). That's difficult to do in the dark. Perhaps similar range times as those at Pueblo West Sportsmans Association or the Izzak Walton Shooting League. This also gives area residents some noise relief. When you hear firearms at 1:00 in the morning it is hard to go back to sleep and many people would be on alert from that point on.

Charge a membership fee and issue a user's card. This is public land and there is no reason that charges cannot not apply. We have to pay to use the forest for our atv's, hunting and in some areas, camping. There is nothing that states that this should be a free benefit. Charging and issuing a users card also means that control could be made for those that the cards have been issued. A short class could be made mandatory (again look at mandatory hunters safety classes). Anyone shooting should know the four rules of gun safety and be willing to apply them. One-Always treat all guns as if it were loaded (treated as all guns are always loaded). Two-Never let the muzzle cover anything that you are not willing to destroy. Some people appear to think that the bullet stops at the target, whether they hit it or not. Three-Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target. Four-Be sure of your target and what is beyond it. There are a lot of new shooters out there that do not know these rules. These rules are not just for the shooter, it is also for innocent people in the area. If the fees are sufficient a range officer could be assigned. It should also be posted that this area is specifically for shooting purposes. There is no reason to bring your child with their bicycle or your dogs. It is a specific area for the use of a potentially deadly device.

The disadvantage of the above is that it may put more pressure with more people shooting in the open Forest area. The following are USAF rules-Federal Rules

According to the Code of Federal Regulations (title 36), recreational shooting can take place on the National

Forests and Grasslands under these conditions:

1. You are at least 150 yards from a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation area or occupied area.
2. You are not shooting across or on a National Forest System Road or an adjacent body of water.
3. You are not shooting into or within a cave.
4. You are not shooting in any manner or place where any person, property or resource is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge.
5. You are not firing any tracer bullet or incendiary ammunition.

Regional and Local Restrictions

For safety reasons areas have been closed to discharging a firearm. Learn and follow all regional and local Shooting Restrictions & Area Closures

Targets and Alcohol

On the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland :

* You may only shoot targets that are:

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* cardboard,

* paper,

* self-healing,

* manufactured metallic (metal targets specifically designed for firearms),

* or manufactured thrown-type clay (clay pigeons)

* Wooden backing on targets is not allowed

* You may not possess an open container of an alcoholic beverage while discharging a firearm. See Shooting Restrictions & Area Closures for details.

* You may not use an explosive, including exploding targets.

Why the direct statements above are for The Arapaho, Roosevelt and Pawnee, it would seem that it should apply to the Pike also.

Anyone who hikes, bikes, horseback rides in the Forest area have all seen the brass, target trash and damaged trees/rocks. People that are obviously intoxicated have also been seen using firearms in the Forest area (a friend and I watched two individuals in a tug of war with a pump shotgun over whose turn it was to shoot next, one was pulling on the muzzle end and the other was using the trigger guard for leverage and there were beer cans being used for targets). The damage and trash is a noted and proven condition along the Forest area at Painted Rocks Road and the off shoot trails. The shooting range will not make this an improved condition. There is so much usage at this time in the Forest areas for hikers, bicyclist and horseback riders, that there is no reason to allow Forest area shooting. If an accident takes place the USFS should be considered culpable.

I would never want or try to restrict the use of a person's Second Amendment right in regards to firearm ownership or use. I am a competitive shooter and have a great deal of respect for the Second Amendment and those that exercise this right responsibly. But it is a fact that there are some idiots out there. When you purchase a firearm there is not a question that asks if you are stupid. Of course if you're stupid, you would not know to check the yes box. Some control in the Turkey Tracks shooting area and the Forest area in general needs to be applied for the safety of the shooters, area users and area property owners.

I am a resident along Painted Rocks Road. Thank you for your time.