

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

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Title:

Comments: [TEXT COPIED FROM ATTACHED FILE]

We would still like to request that GIS data be made available to the public for the various areas proposed for closure to dispersed shooting.

It is difficult to discern using the Storymap alone which factors apply to a specific area of land that is shaded in lavender as proposed to closed to dispersed shooting. Many of the factors and proposed areas associated with them listed on page 9 of the proposed action overlap. There is no easy way to tell using the Storymap if a specific area of land is being proposed for shooting closure due to its proximity to a road, stream, trail or any other factor. The public cannot assume that each and every one of the proposed shooting area closures listed on page 9 of the proposed action will be retained as part of the final decision. There is no way to turn certain layers associated with proposed shooting closures on and off on the Storymap.

Thus, we are requesting some way for the public to easily view each separate proposed shooting closure area associated with the various factors individually. GIS data for each layer would accomplish this. Moving forward, GIS data would be extremely useful after a final decision to help the public understand exactly where they are allowed or prohibited to shoot with that data loaded into a GPS unit or on an app. with a cellphone with GPS capability.

We would also like to request a list of what trails are currently being proposed as "highly visible trails". We were able to find some of these using the Storymap, but it is again difficult to determine this due to overlapping proposed closures potentially being applied to the same area.

One glaring error with the Storymap is it fails to account for dispersed shooting area closures for roads, lakes, and trails adjacent to the Pike Forest Boundary on other Forests. For example, long segments of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail exist within 150 and 440 yards of the Pike Forest Boundary (with some of segments on Pike NF land) but there is no shooting closure proposed for that trail. Similarly, the Mt Evans Ridge Trail exists on both AR National Forest Land and Pike NF land. We believe these features must be considered for shooting area closures on Pike NF land, even though they may not specifically be managed by the Pike NF.

We will include that and more as part of the written comments we plan to submit.