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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings,

In recent years the front-range population growth has had significant impact on the urban-wildlife interface of the Pike and San Isabel National Forests most noticeably in the Trout and West Creek watersheds which is the home for 20,000 people near the boarder area of Douglas and Teller County.

Since the 2002 Hayman Fire, the Westcreek Residential Community has also grown in popularity as an unmanaged National Forest shooting area locally known as the "Turkey Tracks Shooting Range" (750-acres) resulting in continuing law enforcement, fire protection, property damage, wildlife/livestock losses, public land/tree damage, environmental cleanup, night shooting, and public safety issues. (Pictures)

In response to the NEPA comment period for proposed permanent shooting ranges on front-range National Forest System Lands and to ensure future public safety I suggest requirements as follows:

1) All proposed permanent shooting ranges on front-range National Forest System Lands need to be located in areas with established "intergovernmental agreement" law enforcement and fire protection

2) Extend the minimum required distance from any proposed permanent shooting ranges as follows:

a) 2-mile minimum distance from the boundary of a city or town

b) 1-mile minimum distance from a single home, subdivision, or unincorporated town

c) 1-mile minimum distance from any recreational site (trailhead, camp site, picnic area, etc.)

d) 1-mile minimum distance from a recreational lake or reservoir

e) 1/2-mile minimum distance from perennial or intermittent streams

f) 1/2-mile minimum distance from a communication/electrical transmission towers or other utilities

g) 1/2-mile minimum distance from highly visible trails

h) 1/2-mile minimum distance from any National Forest System Roads (ML3, ML4, & ML5)

i) 1/4-mile minimum distance from any National Forest System Roads (ML1 or ML2)

j) 1/4-mile minimum distance from any National Forest System Trails

3) Restrict all night shooting on front-range National Forest System Lands except for legal permitted night game hunting on National Forest System Lands with state hunting licenses and permits

4) Install road closure metal barrier gates on any ridgeline National Forest System Roads in designated "dispersed target shooting areas" to prevent future downhill-shooting/public-safety incidents

5) Implement local public-private community partnerships for any proposed permanent shooting ranges and

designated "dispersed target shooting areas" to provide any required onsite management, rule enforcement, wildfire prevention, waste clean-up, and reclamation efforts

Lastly, to prevent future disturbances of neighboring communities, homeowners, and landowners, it is also necessary to enforce existing National Forest Regulations or to initiate new orders to protect public safety.

Without establishing combined law enforcement and fire protection the Turkey Tracks Shooting Range will never be safe.

Respectfully,

Kurt Huffman