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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a landowner that is surrounded by national forest and has many campers that utilize all the trails that go through and around my property, I vote for the proposed action, which would identify and close areas unsuitable for dispersed target shooting activities, develop at least one shooting range on each ranger district (meaning a minimum of three shooting ranges, nine potential sites identified).

Unfortunately, the public doesn't take the time to learn the rules of where they can shoot safely and/or don't care. I had people shoot in my direction when I was out fencing and I had to shoot my gun into the air to let them know that I was there. Currently, I have no trespassing sign on a tree that faces the road and is only 75 feet from the road that has significant amounts of bullet holes. There are on my property and on the forest where the trees have died because it was used so much for target practice.

The number of recreationalists is increasing exponentially because the public seeks the cooler air and because of the popularity of the side-by-side vehicles. Every year, due to the climate change, the potential for fires escalates. Unless you live next to the forest and have been subjected to my dilemmas, you don't know the fear that I live with daily wondering if I will be shot or that the shooting will start another fire. I already lost over 100 acres of trees and don't want to lose the other 100 acres I have left.

There is a small area right next to my property where the public likes to park because the majority of the time the road (FS360 aka County Road 51) is in horrible condition. I reached out to the Forest Service to block this area from the public. The Forest Service solution was to put up a sign. The sign isn't good enough, it's just another target to shoot at.

What I don't seem to understand is I get the impression that the Forest Service is more concerned with the public's contentment and revenue than the rights and safety of the landowners, campers, and trail riders. I believe with all my heart that the Forest Service needs to take a hard stance to eliminate all shooting in the Pikes Peak Forest Service areas except for hunting. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Patricia O'Neil