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First name: Allen

Last name: Kerby

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Integrated target shooting Pike National Forest

I prefer Alternative 3: Minimum Action. This alternative provides more balance between closure and dispersed shooting and is more in alignment with the objectives of Title IV of the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, & Recreation Act (Public Law 116-9). It is still very concerning that 59% of the Forest would be closed to dispersed shooting under Alternative 3, but this is preferable to the 72% closure in Alternative 2. No closures should occur until the developed ranges are operational.

After reviewing the information about the nine potential sites, I do not support inclusion of NFSR 704 - Wilkerson Pass site because it has been identified by State of Colorado wildlife officials as year-round habitat for mule deer, bighorn sheep, and elk. It also serves as a winter concentration area for deer and elk and is a migration corridor for pronghorn.

The four following points will explain my opposition to building a shooting range right in the middle of critical wildlife habitat.

*Impact on wildlife in the Wilkerson Pass area. Development of this site for a shooting range is going to negatively impact deer, elk, antelope and bighorn sheep year-round, not just seasonally. Mountain passes are important areas for wildlife and Wilkerson Pass is no exception. The elk in the area constantly travel through the corridor year-round, making circuits that cross the pass and the highway. This area is incredibly important for the deer herd throughout the year, not just in winter. Much like the elk herd, deer use of the area is not seasonally confined. For bighorn sheep, the landscape is an important movement corridor connecting the portion of the Tarryall bighorn sheep population north of the highway with the portion south of the highway. Pronghorns use the area primarily as a seasonal migration corridor during extreme winters. Pronghorns need to be able to migrate out of South Park and into Badger Flats and further east during extreme winters. The placement of the shooting range sits right in the middle of the most important wildlife corridor for miles around. Why would you want to destroy this area in which has been designated to be crucial wildlife habitat by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

*The South Park Ranger District has committed funding and manpower to improve the Wildlife Migration corridor in the Badger Flats area at the base of Wilkerson Pass. As an agency USFS has already realized how important the area is to wildlife and landscape connectivity with working towards the Migration corridor. A shooting range would disrupt this area and change the migration pattern for all wildlife in the area.

*Colorado Parks and Wildlife have deemed this area as crucial wildlife corridor and migration route.

*Federal mandates in regard to Wildlife migration and corridors follow:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY WASHINGTON, DC 20250

*SECRETARY'S MEMORANDUM 1077-004 June 23, 2022, Climate Resilience and Carbon Stewardship of America's National Forests and Grasslands

(2) Wildlife Habitat and Connectivity.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR WASHINGTON DC.

ORDER NO. 3362

Subject: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

March 21, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Brenda Mallory

Chair

SUBJECT: Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Ecological Connectivity and
Wildlife Corridors

COLORADO SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 21-021

BY SENATOR(S) Danielson, Bridges, Buckner, Donovan, Fenberg, Ginal,
Hansen, Jaquez Lewis, Kolker, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Story, Winter,
Zenzinger, Garcia;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Will, Amabile, Bernett, Bird, Carver, Catlin,
Cutter, Daugherty, Duran, Geitner, Gonzales-Gu~ierrez, Herod, Hooton,
Jackson, Jodeh, Kipp, Lynch, McCluskie, McCormick, McLachlan, Mullica,
Pico, Ricks, Roberts, Sandridge, Snyder, Titone, Valdez D., Van Beber, Young.

CONCERNING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S SUPPORT OF THE
STATE OF COLORADO'S EFFORTS TO PRESERVE THE STATE'S
FLORA AND FAUNA THROUGH THE PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE
HABITAT CONNECTIVITY.