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Title:

Comments: In addition to my comments submitted during the previous comment period I will add the following: It is apparent that the gentlemen from Douglas and Teller Counties have had much influence over the site selections for shooting range possibilities in PARK county. While Teller County Commissioner Dan Williams and Sheriff Miksell lauded their working relationship with EI Paso County, NO mention was made of any relationship with Park County Sheriff McGraw. Law enforcement and emergency response to any of the proposed sites in Park County will be critical and other agencies responsible, such as Lake George Fire, have been sorely left out of the discussion. This is inexcusable, as is the USFS lack of effort to inform and engage residents of Park County and, specifically, those near the three possible range sites. After the August 13th public comment meeting we residents spread the word. Even at this advanced stage of a project several years in the planning stage, residents deserve to have their voices heard.

Also inexcusable is the attitude Andy Hough from the Douglas County Engineering Department as he expounded upon about wildlife and wildlife corridors. Mr. Hough brushed aside my concerns by suggesting that the animals will simply have plenty of other places to move to in the 500K+ acres of Pike National Forest. There are CPW designated corridors and migration routes in Park County, The 704 site lies within one. USFS is federally and state MANDATED to protect it. I live in that corridor and have been involved in wildlife and habitat conservation for 35 years. The herds up here are NOT the habituated animals that live in the unnatural environment of the more developed areas that are common closer to the front range. I'm appalled that USFS personnel have given so much weight to Mr's. Hough opinions regarding forest lands and the wildlife therein in Park County. Wildlife needs and deserves our protection... not more encroachment and human disruption.

For any option chosen for these shooting ranges adequate LE will be crucial. A "we're going to build it" and "adjust accordingly" afterward will not work. I have seen firsthand the disregard that too many people have for the lands they are increasingly venturing into. An example is when we are in a burn ban the most effective tool to prevent illegal/unattended campfires has been the swift issuance of tickets and fines. Unfortunately, regardless of attempts to educate, people will not stop the behavior and word will not be spread until it becomes painful enough to not comply.

I remain unequivocally opposed to the 704 range in particular and will continue to speak out against the process that brought USFS this far in decisions made and/or endorsed by those in larger and more populated counties without regard for the impact on an adjacent county.