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First name: Andy

Last name: Hough

Organization: Southern Shooting Partnership

Title: Chair

Comments: December 23, 2024

USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region. Attn: Reviewing Officer,

c/o Director of Strategic Planning, 1617 Cole Blvd., Bldg. 17, Lakewood, CO 80401

RE: Objection on the Integrated Management of Target Shooting on the Pike National Forest

Thank you for the hard work and perseverance the Forest Service has put into this process. Your commitment and dedication to working with all stakeholders and working through the multitude of considerations is commendable! Recreational shooting is no easy challenge to manage.

The Southern Shooting Partnership's (SSP) sole purpose is the management of recreational shooting on public lands between Pueblo and Denver. It is a major milestone to see the culmination of this Forest Service decision process and environmental assessment. It is gratifying for the SSP members to have walked with the Forest Service and other partners to contribute to this solution. Please know that the SSP members intend to continue our partnership through range construction and the long-term management of facilities and recreational shooting in general.

This decision marks a major transition in recreational shooting on the Pike National Forest. Individuals and stakeholders receive any change differently. While there may be some dissent on provisions of this decision, it seems to this board that it is a well-balanced and thoughtful conclusion. The SSP wishes to thank your personnel for your balance in accommodating recreational shooting opportunities while protecting natural resources and public safety, and deconflicting the multitude of recreational uses on the national forest while providing for the peace and safety of adjacent landowners.

The SSP would like to file a general objection. This board is not objecting to any particular provision of the draft decision or FONSI. Our sole purpose in objecting is to stay involved in the process through the objection period. If other objections initiate last minute changes, please let us know. The SSP has filed substantive comments during all public comment periods, participated in scoping phases of and public meetings for this project, and assisted in securing shooting range grants and facilities planning, establishing legal standing for this objection. Andy Hough is designated as the lead objector. Please contact him if there are any significant changes arising from the objection process.

Once again, thank you for your diligence and perseverance in this lengthy process. The culmination is as good an outcome as anyone could expect.

Andy Hough

Chair