

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/24/2018 6:04:23 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: After 20+ years of camping and riding motorcycles in this peaceful slice of Georgia, we bought our home on Jonas Mountain Road in 2013. We made a decision to completely change our hectic, traffic-filled, stressful life for a more peaceful life here in the edge of the Brasstown Wilderness. We searched for years for the perfect place. After a couple years of transitioning, we moved fulltime to Jonas Mountain in December 2015. We are not only avid campers and motorcyclists, but also gun-owners and enjoy shooting at our property in Alabama, as well as the Chatuge Gun Club. We adamantly oppose the proposed Target Range on Hwy 180. If the county wants a target range instead of using the Chatuge Gun Club, fine; however, we don't want it on our backyard!

As for the talking points that were printed in the Notice of Public hearing:

- It is unclear if/whether gunfire will be heard by nearby residents and users of the Forest - FALSE.
- No noise information is included in the gun range proposal - OBVIOUSLY.
- No formal gun-fire sound/noise studies have been conducted for the proposed site to date - FALSE.
- Current significant gun-fire noise from an existing target site 0.9 mile distant from homes - FALSE.

NOTE: noise level studies HAVE been conducted and we disagree with the statements above. The information you are relaying to the community is FALSE.

- Closest home (currently under construction) less than 1 mile from proposed site
- 40+ properties w/in 1.5+/- miles of proposed site (20+/- homes)
- 14 houses/structures in Hoyt Alexander Subdivision (entrance road 1+/- mile from site)
- 3 full-time, occupied, homesteaded residences in Hoyt Alexander Subdivision
- 8 part-time, seasonal, weekend, rental cabins/structures in Hoyt Alexander Subdivision
- 3 additional homesteaded located residences on Ga. 180
- Site Located adjacent to and within the Russell-Brasstown Scenic Byway
- Appalachian Trail 1 mile+/- distant from proposed range
- Mark Trail Wilderness Area 1/2 mile+/- distant
- Brasstown Wilderness Area across Highway 180

Honestly, how would you like to live less than a mile from a target range?! How far into the woods should we, our children and grandchildren walk - and in what direction? How far should the hikers wander off of the trails?!

- The proposed target site is 2 miles+/- from the Union/Towns Co. line
- Site access is on inside radius of steep, blind downhill curve on S.R. 180

As previously stated, we ride motorcycles and we are well aware of the dangers of vehicles pulling onto Hwy 180 at the proposed location. It is extremely dangerous for all vehicles, including the many motorcycles and bicyclists that come up to this county to ride.

As for the issue of the Chatuge Gun Club Range:

- Existing Chatuge Gun Club Range is 3.5 miles+/- distant from proposed site
- Chatuge Gun Club is open to the public (non members) 1 Sunday afternoon per month
- Chatuge Gun Club is reserved 2 mornings per month for law enforcement training/practice
- Chatuge Gun Club has a declining membership
- On recent visits, shooting stations were available

My husband is a member of the Chatuge Gun Club. We go by the range many times a week and it is very often

empty. Chatuge Gun Club has been suitable for Union County law enforcement for years. The fact that Chatuge Gun Club is no longer sufficient for Union County law enforcement and residents, gives the appearance that this entire proposal is an arrogant attempt for recognition on behalf of one or more county officials.