Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/26/2019 6:00:39 PM
First name: Phillip
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I maintain a section of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in the Mark Trail Wilderness Area adjacent to the proposed shooting range. I object to the USFS draft decision in favor of placing a private shooting range on public land for the following reasons:

1) there was no assessment of why this gun range is necessary in the first place given that a gun range already exists within 3 linear miles of the proposed range, including analysis of why the range is better located on public land instead of private land since the range will be operated by a private gun club;

2) my comments on the Environmental Assessment were not addressed, including:
a) the analysis of the expected impact of noise in the Mark Trail Wilderness and Appalachian Trail is inadequate in that it did not test for maximum noise level under expected operating conditions using the loudest guns which will be allowed at the range and the expected number of such guns shooting simultaneously.
b) safety of forest users in the surrounding area has not been adequately addressed;

3) as stated in Andy Baker's letter accompanying his draft decision, I was to have received notice of the draft decision and the opportunity to object, but I did not receive any such notice; and

4)there is no documentation indicating that the National Park Service has been informed and included in the decision based on the expected impact on one of its national park units, The Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

In summary, the environmental analysis behind this draft decision is inadequate to support the draft decision and makes a mockery of the decision-making process and the USFS as a steward of our public lands. It appears that pressure has been applied to USFS employees from superiors to render a decision to proceed even though the decision lacks adequate support.