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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I wish to comment on the proposed gun club. I am a member of the Chatuge Gun Club which is only 3.8 miles away or a 5 minute drive.

I am a member of the Chatuge Gun Club and am aware of their policies to routinely close the range to allow for the local law enforcement use. Chatuge Gun Club also has dedicated periods each month making the range open to the public, i.e. non-members. So the argument that LEO and the general public need range access doesn't hold true, Chatuge Gun Club is five minutes away.

I personally do not understand why I as a tax payer would be funding a separate club only five minutes away. Further, why would we want to create additional stress on the environment? Why would we want to remove 15.42 additional acres from our natural forest?

There's been studies on noise abatement relative to the concerns of human disturbance and/or annoyance, but there should also be concerns about the stress on wildlife. Recent studies have show light activities such as hiking have an impact on wildlife, interrupting feeding and other activities within a 100 meter corridor of impact. .(Wildlife Responses to Recreation and Associated Visitor Perceptions, Audrey R. Taylor and Richard L. Knight, Ecological Applications

Vol. 13, No. 4 (Aug., 2003), pp. 951-963 (13 pages), Published by: Wiley on behalf of the Ecological Society of America) Therefore, I don't understand why we should have a duplicate rifle range needlessly adding noise and stress on the environment with a very much larger scope of impact.

I am a property owner of Union County. I am the holder of a Lifetime Sportsman License with the State of Georgia. I am a hiker, a hunter, a recreational shooter. While the new proposed Union County Club would be closer to my home in Union County so it would benefit me marginally, it just doesn't make sense. There is no good reason to have a duplicate range on national forest land only 3.8 miles away from the existing Chatuge Gun Club.