Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/7/2021 5:08:28 PM

First name: lan
Last name: Patterson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The maps provided for the closure area are extremely difficult to understand exact locations impacted, so I am uncertain what is being considered by this project. I want to voice my support for closing all dispersed shooting areas off of old stage and gold camp roads, especially in the area of FS#379, FS#381, and Trail #626. These areas are continual sites of illegal activity, trash dumping, destruction of wilderness, and illegal/dangerous shooting. I've personally been involved in a conflict where an individual refused to stop shooting across a legal, public trail (Trail #626 commonly used by hikers, motorcycles, and cyclists) because he was there "first". The situation escalated into multiple people being threatened with a gun and leaving the area, warning others on their way to avoid it.

Unfortunately, this isn't the case of one bad user, but a habitual problem in the area. This is evident in the destruction of wilderness, dumping of waste, and non-sanctioned shooting sites that are rampant. Additionally, other users have been injured in this area from stray bullets due to improper usage. In 2018 a hiker was shot while collecting used shell casings with his daughter. If we continue to allow the current state of shooting in this area it is only a matter of time before someone is killed.