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Comments: As a responsible recreational shooter that packs out everything I bring in (along with dozens of additional spent shotshell hulls that I find left behind by other not-so-responsible users) this proposal concerns me. The reason I, and others, make the trek into the mountains to shoot, as opposed to using any number of the immediately accessible local shooting ranges in and around Colorado Springs, is the freedom of action that is not possible at a managed range while in the vicinity of other shooters. Specifically, the well-worn areas of the forest presently used for target shooting provide the opportunity to set up, check and adjust targets at will and without the safety concerns generated when sharing a managed range with a stranger in one or more parallel "lanes." Moreover, the ability to use these areas on a first-come, first-serve basis, enables a solitary user to conduct "shoot and move" drills and similar such recreational activity which would no longer be safely feasible if recreational shooters were "pooled" together at 2 or 3 ranges with lanes.

The proposal accurately notes that the "experience" of target shooting at a handful of designated ranges with lanes will be different, but this is an understatement. Because the proposal vaguely states that individual range management will be handled individually without further detail, it is impossible to understand whether the consolidation of shooting areas into a handful of designated ranges will be so impactful as to eliminate the present benefits to recreational shooters, and render the "experience" no different than what is available at private ranges in the city. The intent should be to avoid obviating the reasons why recreational shooting is permitted in forests in the first place.

Not everyone owns multi-acre properties outside of city limits where target shooting is possible without the stifling requirements that are needed to make laned shooting ranges safe to use. The forest has fulfilled this need for those of us who don't own large tracks of land suitable for recreational shooting. Yes, it's unfortunate that many have abused this privilege by littering, and action needs to be taken, but I urge modest actions that still preserve the freedom of action that recreational shooting users presently enjoy.

To that end, I recommend, and respectfully request, further development of the proposal to specify what the new "experience" on the formally designated, laned ranges would be like. Many ranges restrict the use of steel targets, movement while shooting, drawing from a holster, and have "hot and cold" periods to set up and check targets, etc.

In order to evaluate this proposal, the public requires more information concerning such potential range rules.