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First name: Brian

Last name: Erickson

Organization: King Grizzly

Title:

Comments: I support a management plan for target shooting on the Pike National Forest. Over the past decade, I've noticed an increasing amount of destruction and litter in the forest. I've also had a number of close calls and frightening encounters with irresponsible target shooters near trail areas and along roadways.

By way of example, Old Stage Road from Colorado Springs to Cripple Creek should be a jewel for families and sightseers. Instead it has become an area to avoid at all costs as it is overrun with military-style equipped target shooters. The last time I drove through the area, my 6-year-old was reduced to tears and shaking as we passed group after group of active shooters at the roadside.

I have witnessed shooters firing into hiking trail areas as well as shooting across the road into no backstop. The forest in the area of the Mt. Rosa trailhead has been reduced to ruins and trees have literally been gunned down.

Getting to the Mt. Rosa trailhead itself is frightening due to shooters. This is one of the most beautiful summits in the area and its trails are assaulted by shooting and motorcyclists.

Enforcement and cleanup seem like key aspects of any management plan and I see those as near impossible given the scale and frankly, belligerence of shooters in some areas. A marketing campaign with video and images could be helpful to garner support as the public at large probably doesn't realize what is happening to their woods.

Thank you for working on this crisis.