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Comments: I would like to start off by agreeing that the population has increased along the front range and subsequently has resulted in increased use of public lands for recreational shooting. This will inevitably lead to increased impact on the resource. While there are instances of new or willfully negligent recreational shooters unlawfully and inappropriately impacting the land, much of the increased impact can be attributed to the increase of recreational shooters in the community.

This is similar to what is seen with other user groups increasing along with the population. Along the front range, mountain bikers have increased similarly and this has resulted in increasing impact on public land trail systems. The National Forest land managers' response to these other user group increase in use is not usually to confine their activities to a smaller section of public land, but it is to build and identify already built resources for that group to use. I would like to see a similar management response to the increase in recreational shooters.

Further adding to this consideration and not seen in any other user group, is the 10% excise tax levied upon the entire population that purchases shooting and archery equipment through the Federal aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 (Pittman-Robertson Act). Working with state partners, federal land managers have the ability to apply for this funding in support of recreational shooting facilities and management. I would like to see this done to develop shooting facilities on Pike National Forest. Providing for recreational shooting is congruent with the objectives of the Pittman-Robertson Act as it can confine that activity to a specific area, leaving more of the public land preserved for wildlife habitat. As seen in other National Forests, recreational shooters will flock to a well-designed and well-maintained shooting facility that accommodates current trends in recreational shooting.

Looking at the National Shooting Sports Foundation's 2020 Industry Reference Guide (URL provided below), one can see that there is an ongoing trend towards the purchasing of shooting products not used in hunting. (e.g. pistols and associated ammunition) representing a larger share of total product sold and money spent. This trend has been occurring for decades. Any management plan, facility, and regulations that govern those plans and facilities need to reflect and accommodate for this trend of increasing recreational shooters that do not shoot for the purposes of hunting.

Specifics:

The management plan shows proposed shooting facility locations outside of El Paso County, Colorado. This is remote to the majority of the population that seeks to use these facilities and does not serve the community. It further impacts the environment and road resources by increased vehicle traffic from those population centers to the proposed shooting facilities, resulting in an increased need for road maintenance and increased emissions and other vehicle pollutants into the environment. Please locate a shooting facility site within El Paso County and on Pike National Forest land.

New, youth, and disabled shooters need to be accommodated at all shooting facilities, but that should not deny other needs of the shooting community.

In order to fairly represent those that paid into the Pittman-Robertson Fund and in general paid taxes, any shooting facility or group of shooting facilities and their respective regulations need to accommodate shooters that do not shoot for the purposes of hunting. This includes activities that are trending such as shooting commercially available steel targets; shooting from standing, kneeling and prone positions commonly found in shooting competitions and vitally required to be practiced for defensive shooting practice; shooting International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) style courses; shooting 3-gun style courses; and being allowed to shoot

more than one round in a given time (usually regulated to one round per second) also vitally required for defensive shooting practice. Also necessary for defensive shooting practice is allowing for drawing from a holster at a shooting facility. Cowboy action shooting is a popular activity in the community surrounding Pike National Forest that should also be accommodated. Given the excellent winter sports opportunities on Pike National Forest, the olympic sport of biathlon should be accommodated at at least one shooting facility. URLs are provided below to the above-mentioned organizations and activities. To justify my assertions of defensive shooting needs, one only needs to reference the semi-annual shooting qualification course that federal land management police officers must pass. Civilian defensive shooting practice needs are no different than police defensive shooting.

Acknowledging that, even with an historic high in the American population purchasing shooting products and subsequently Pittman-Robertson funding is flush, resources and land are limited, accommodation of the above mentioned shooting activities can be achieved through several methods.

If separate areas cannot be developed at shooting facilities for different types of shooters, then specific days could be established in regulations if shooting activities cannot use the facility together. Alternately it could be written into regulations that user groups can form to safely manage and use the proposed facilities for specific shooting activities. More general facilities can be constructed such as three sided berms to be flexible to a variety of shooting genres.

If at all possible, priority should be given to providing separate areas for new and youth shooters. Generally this significantly diminishes any competition to use shooting facilities among the different shooting activities.

NSSF Industry Reference Guide:

<https://www.nssf.org/research/industry-reference-guide/>

IPSC:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Practical_Shooting_Confederation

<https://www.ipsc.org/>

3-gun:

<http://www.3-gun.com/>

Cowboy Action shooting:

<https://www.cowboyactionshooting.com/>

Biathlon:

<https://www.biathlonworld.com/>

Please contact me for any other information, collaboration or volunteer opportunities about this topic.