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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have lived adjacent to Pike National Forest for nearly 30 years and have used the Forest for many activities continuously during that time. I am an avid hiker, cyclist, and gun owner.

The increase in population density in the region and usage of certain parts of the forest makes those areas unsuitable for dispersed target shooting.

Specifically, areas such as the Mount Herman Rd corridor have proven to be a disaster of irresponsible behavior including the destruction of forest resources, constant trash being left behind, destruction of property (vehicles, signs), and the loss of human life (my friend Tim Watkins).

Prior to the shooting ban along Mt Herman Rd, recreation along the corridor had become completely unsafe, with people shooting near and across roadways. Unsafe people were also shooting with no backstop, trees as backstops, and into canyons where people hike, bike, and ride horses. USFS LEO's have also first hand seen and been subjected to the unsafe shooting that occurs on Mt. Herman Rd. There are multiple reported instances of cars being hit by stray gunfire in the area. A local Boy Scout troop performing Eagle Project work on Limbaugh Canyon Trail 715 were at one point forced to take cover from stray gunfire, I was with them at the time. We can not return to that situation again.

Additionally, the trash left behind by dispersed shooting is terrible. Many volunteer hours went into cleaning up as much as possible several years ago but much remains.

I object to any legal dispersed target shooting within proximity to highly trafficked multi-use areas such as the Mt Herman Rd corridor.