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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I would first like to note that I have sent emails to USFS over the past few years with no response at all about the Turkey Tracks Shooting Range. Douglas County Sheriff's Department has been kind enough to respond, but nothing from USFS. I am glad the USFS is starting to take the shooting issue seriously, but I am concerned about its ability to long-term manage these ranges as it cannot even respond to email inquiries from concerned citizens.

I own a home in a nearby neighborhood and have not had any issues with the range UNTIL the past few years with the numerous fires that have been started there. I also now hear gunfire all the time, even after dark. I am very concerned about the Turkey Tracks range, for these reasons:

- ongoing trash/debris issues
- disruption to wildlife
- NUMEROUS fires started at the range, endangering the forest and nearby homes
- night shooting
- noise issues
- non-allowed weapons/targets being used

I also have a few questions I would like answered:

- what year was the range started?
- are you planning to expand its use in size, number of people allowed and the amount of gunfire?

I am concerned you are not going to follow your own guidelines for existing ranges set out in your proposal as Turkey Tracks already violates many of these:

- low risk to public safety (very high risk already with the numerous fires, stray bullets and night shooting)
- low occurrence of wildfire (7 fires in the past few years alone)
- reduced conflict with adjacent properties (many unanswered complaints over the past few years from the 4 surrounding neighborhoods)
- lack of trash (site has been an ongoing mess)

My suggestions for improvement:

- I understand there is a Facebook group called Friends of Turkey Tracks. If they want to keep the range, why not have them start a volunteer monitoring group that will report any individuals not following the rules.
- If USFS wants to keep the range open it needs to MONITOR it EVERY DAY to make sure it is meeting criteria for staying open.
- Any range should be automatically shut down anytime there is a burn ban in a bordering county to reduce fire danger.
- All complaints about the ranges should be publicly available on the USFS website.
- All ranges should be fee/permit required, given the amount of noise, damage, danger and disruption gunfire creates.
- The latest noise mitigation strategies should be utilized at all ranges. Gunfire is incredibly loud, and sound carries VERY far in mountain communities. This can ruin someone's enjoyment of their own property and affect

wildlife in the nearby forest.

- Public comment sessions should occur regularly with affected nearby neighborhoods, like Westcreek, Trout Creek Ranches and Harris Park.

My strong preference is that gunfire is not an allowed activity in our National Forests, it has created way too many issues and people have proved time and time again they cannot be responsible. The USFS does not have the budget or manpower to properly patrol the ranges.

If the USFS can truly commit to making sure these ranges are safe, clean and not bothersome to nearby residents, then I am not opposed to them. But, as it stands with unanswered complaints on Harris Park and Turkey Tracks, I am not confident things will get better.

In closing, a person's "right" to recreate should never impair a person's right to live peacefully in their home. It should never endanger wildlife, human life or the ecosystem. I think shooting can coexist with the National Forest other uses and nearby properties, but the USFS must take this very seriously and change the way it is managing this recreational activity.

Thank you for your time.