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First name: Gillian Last name: Rossi Organization:

Title:

Comments: There are multiple restrictions for almost every type of recreation in the Pike National Forest. Extensive maps show ATV users where they can and cannot ride, hundreds of signs are placed in order to restrict parking in certain areas, some areas cannot host campfires, no one can litter. Why are restrictions so lax for one of the only groups of recreaters who could easily kill someone with their hobby? Being able to shoot a firearm in a public forest is certainly convenient for target shooters and others who prefer the free outdoors to a controlled shooting range. However, additional restrictions are needed to control the chaos this form of recreation insues. Our neighbors no longer go into the forest to hike or ride, due to their fear of being hit by a stray bullet from shooters who are allowed to shoot wherever they please. Target shooters should be required to do their homework and learn about all rules and restrictions before venturing into the forest. They should not be allowed to shoot wherever they desire. Unless the USFS plans to hire many more officers to patrol the area, recreational shooters will continue to break the existing (although minimal) rules and use this public land as a playground rather than a shared use area that everyone takes responsibility for. How is it possible for hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, birders, and anyone else to relax in the forest while listening to the sound of shooting that may or may not interrupt their activity? Adding restrictions to this deadly form of recreation will benefit everyone who enjoys the forest and increase other recreational uses of the land.