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First name: Sean

Last name: Williams

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly support the idea of limiting shooting in Pike National Forest to designated areas. In my own experience as a hiker, I have felt unsafe when I was on a trail and couldn't identify the source of gunfire.

Presumably people were being safe, but what if a bullet ricocheted or if I inadvertently crossed a line of fire or behind one without knowing? Having designated sites would eliminate this risk.

Additionally, those who shoot often leave spent shells and used targets as well as other garbage at the site. In some areas on the west side of Mt. Rosa (Gold Camp Road) the amount of garbage is pretty significant. I worry about that trash washing into streams, for example, in addition to generally polluting the environment.

Those who shoot also impact wildlife negatively. Presumably, these people are shooting at targets. However, the wildlife in some of these areas might be actively targeted without permitting or might inadvertently be wounded by crossing a firing line. Additionally, these wildlife are driven away from parts of the forest by the noise of gunfire, while some animals, for example bears, might become habituated to people by foraging through the garbage left by the shooters.

Finally, fire is a hazard due to spent shells expelling from weapons or from the bullets themselves. In more heavily vegetated environments, the opportunity for creating a wildfire exists and we know what damage wildfires cause to the environment and potentially to homes or people.

Restricting the shooting to ranges that are properly marked reduces the risk of inadvertent (or intentional) damage to the forest while still allowing people to shoot. I hope that the proposal passes AND that it is actively enforced once it has passed.