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Organization:

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Comments: We have lived in the South Park Ranger District between Florissant and Lake George for 40 years and have had a business in this area for 75 years. During this time, we have seen shooting activity go from hunting during the specific seasons, to year round shooting especially with larger and larger guns. Twice, we have witnessed people with AR15's jump out of vehicles, fire haphazardly into the forest and jump back into the vehicles and speed away. During the first instance, we had two horses severely injured as they went through a barbed wire fence trying to get away from the shooting. There were also clients of ours nearby who witnessed this and were terrified. The second instance was not 20 yards from my home. We have a permit to use the forest around our camp area. Many times, we have had to delay hikes or horseback rides and bring people back to our property because of random shooting. At a meeting I attended in Lake George, I heard of people having their windows shot out in their homes, and of two hikers who had to hide behind a rock until some shooting stopped. We also had two staff members watch a mother give her child a gun and have him destroy a lawn chair with it. These people always leave their trash and broken items, including destroyed trees, for us to clean up. People do not feel comfortable to take a hike or horseback ride in the forest in our area. If many of these areas are not closed to this activity, there are going to be injuries and deaths. I fully understand that people should be allowed to shoot their guns in a responsible manner. I think that people from the city don't realize that there are people living out here. We need to limit that to certain areas where it can be controlled.