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First name: Larry

Last name: Bryant

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My family has lived at this location since 1992, and we can personally attest to the drastic increase in traffic and shooting on/near Mt. Herman Road, both on the east and west side of Mt. Herman. Therefore, I am very appreciative of any effort to curtail or localize the shooting to much smaller area for the safety of all hikers and mountain bikers. It is quite common for me to hear shooting along Mt. Herman Road during summer evenings while I sit on my back porch, and it is even more disconcerting to hear shooting while I am hiking - especially common on the west side of Mt. Herman. In fact, I would probably ride my mountain bike more on that road if it weren't for fear of accidentally being hit by someone's "target practice". The death of Tim Watkins has never been solved, and it still haunts those of us who live in this area and frequent the trails on the west side of Mt. Herman (e.g. Limbaugh Canyon, Mule, Balanced Rock Road).

I also work on the hiking/biking trails in the area as part of the Friends of the Monument Preserve (FOMP), and the "shooting problem" has been an annual source of worry and discussion of what can be done.

Therefore I would strongly recommend the following:

- Create at least one designated shooting range west of Rampart Range Road for people wanting to practice or sight-in weapons.
- Increase signage all along Mt. Herman Road stating "No shooting next X miles"; the current signs have all been shot full of holes, unfortunately.
- Put signs at each of the now popular "practice ranges"
- Police the road on "nice weather days" at the beginning of summer and fine violators.
- Definitely prohibit ALL shooting east of Balanced Rock Road along Mt Herman Road, but preferably keep it all west of Rampart Range Road and Mt Herman.

Thank you for your attention to the very serious problem. Changes need to be made before someone else is accidentally shot.