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Organization:

Title:

Comments: First my credibility: I have been a Master Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor for the state of Colorado for 21 years. I have been a NRA certified instructor for about 20 years. I have used the Pike National Forest for my Hunter Education classes to certify for their range time. I actively use our National Forests Now to sight in hunting firearms and to target shoot.

The problems we face are two fold with SHOOTERS ON ONE SIDE/HIKERS, CAMPER, BIKERS , HORSE RIDERS,ETC (I fall into the Horse Riders also along with Hikers and Campers)ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE. MOST ALL OF THE PROBLEMS ENVOLVED HERE IS A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING/TRAINING ON THE RULES (WRITTEN AND UNWRITTEN) OF THE USE OF OUR NATIONAL FORESTS! SHOOTERS USE UNSAFE BACKSTOPS, LEAVE TRASH, MAY USE INCENDRY (TRACERS) ROUNDS, EXPLODEING TARGETS. VERY, VERY SELDOM IS A NORMAL FIREARM ROUND ABLE TO CAUSE ANY FIRE ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE EDUCATED IN THE TYPE OF AREA YOU SHOULD BE SHOOTING IN!!!! IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE!!!

THE RERECATORS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE: LEAVE TRASH!! COMPLAIN ABOUT GUNFIRE-SOME LEGITAMATE SOME "NOT" NEED TO BE SCHOOLED THAT THEY ARE NOT THE ONLY CITIZENS THAT "OWN" THE NATIONAL FORESTS AND WE NEED TO EMPHAZIE THAT THE FOREST SERVICE DOES NOT OWN THE FORESTS THAT THEY BELONG TO EVERY CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. PIKE NATIONAL FOREST IN PARK COULNTY HAS BEEN CLOSED ALL SPRING/SUMMER BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE SHOOTERS ARE STARTING THE POSSIBLE FOREST FIRES. I DO SHOOT IN THE AREA OF FSR 200 IN PARK COULNTY AND WOULD HATE TO SEE IT CLOSED BECAUSE OF ME AND MY FAMILY HAVING TO DRIVE MUCH FARTHER TO FIND A PLACE TO SAFELY SHOOT.

INSTEAD OF CLOSING MUCH OF OUR NATIONAL FORESTS TO ONE SIDE OF THE FENCE (SHOOTERS) I BELIEVE THAT SOMEHOW EVERYONT THAT USES OUR NATIONAL TREASURES NEEDS TO BE TRAINED OR RETRAINED IN THE USE OF SUCH!! MAKING A "HUNTER EDUCATION CLASS" MANDENTORY IN THE EARLY GRADES OF SCHOOL, 6,7,8 GRADES WOULD GO A LONG WAYS IN SOLVING THE PROBLEM WE SUPPOSEDLY HAVE HERE.....FIREARMS SAFETY IS NOT THE ONLY THING TAUGHT IN "HUNTER EDUCATION" CLASS!

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPERTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THIS ISSUE!

CONTACT ME IF I CAN BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE!