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Comments: I write to voice overall general support for the proposed actions. I have engaged in target shooting on public lands dozens of times and value the ability to do so. At the same time, I am a witness to the extreme degradation of the forest in areas close to Colorado Springs off Gold Camp Rd and recognize that action must be taken for the safety of other shooters and other forest users, and for preservation of the forest. There are simply too many recreational shooters who do not respect the rules or the land to permit continued widespread dispersed shooting. The problem has accelerated and will only get worse. I believe the proposed development of specific recreational shooting sites with significant closures to the remainder of the forest is probably the only solution.

All that said, I would ask for further consideration of sites more easily accessible/closer in proximity to the major urban areas of Colorado Springs and other front range population center. Having reviewed the proposed sites and considering their proximity, I worry about the commute time, and whether that will discourage usage. Further, an easing of closure guidelines for areas further in proximity from the front range might be considered. The documented catalyst for these restrictions is from increased population, and those areas further from the Front Range might not need such tight restrictions.

All in all I am happy to see action being taken to combat the unfortunate situation created by what is probably only a small percentage of recreational shooters. Our land managers have to balance the rights of all legitimate forest users, and unchecked recreational shooting has demonstrated a disproportionate impact.