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I am sending this in response to your Integrated Management of Target Shooting Project for the Pike and San Isabella and Cimarron and Comanche Grasslands

My house borders Pike Forest 5 miles north of Divide near Long Gulch. My 2 neighbors had set up massive shooting ranges in Pike Forest near my home for ten years thus NO ONE could enjoy walking on the Long Gulch trail for fear of being shot. After millions of calls to your Colo Springs office which told me to "call the local sheriff" who told me it's not their jurisdiction, I somehow located a supervisor who immediately had the ranges taken down because they violated several codes of Pike Forest.

My neighborhoods and I feel the main problem is allowing shooting 1/4 mile from a house is not nearly enough distance due to the noise startling factor plus the clear unsafety of ricocheing bullets. These neighbors were using high powered rifles... and were retired military, often inviting their friends to drive up and shoot for hours on end, illegally hitting trees, leaving mounds of beer cans and trash, making new ATV trails in the forest, not carrying out their used bullets or debris, which are ALL violations of your Codes. They continue to target shoot at least once a week but ride their ATVs further out so as not to be detected as easily. The gun fire is still very loud for the entire area and damage to trees ongoing.

No one is safe using the Long Gulch trail which is accessible between two neighboring properties. One of these neighbors not only shoots near the entrance but also posts illegal signs stating vehicles will be towed at the owners expense. The Long Gulch trail begins there and goes North for 5 or more miles. Further out it is widely used by motorcycles and ATV's. As I noted hikers are not safe in this area because of the random and endless shooting. The Long Gulch Trail was open for wood cutting until 1985 then the Forest Service hired tree removers about 5 years ago. The area is still heavily treed and a danger for wildfire. It would be wise to not allow shooting anywhere in this 5 to 10 mile radius both for the safety concern of people and fire danger. Also locals would love it if you designated this area for wood cutting. I don't understand why you don't designate more wood cutting areas in this region esp after the Hayman Fire. The locals prosper and you get money for allowing wood cutting permits. A win win situation don't you think?

In closing, I DO NOT want any gunfire allowed in the area described. It will only draw lawsuits when someone gets shot, which is inevitable. The area is often windy and a wildfire would spread quickly thru the heavily treed area if sparked by a bullet. There are so many acres of forest and with the encroaching spread of the population, you need to limit the areas where guns are allowed. A shooting range is a great start. Enforcement of the shooting range area, clearly marked signs and the limitation of where guns can be fired is critical for this to work.

Thanks for your actions!