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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a mountain biker and hiker who frequently uses old stage road for access and for riding, I am very much in favor of stricter limits and regulation to shooting. The trash and destroyed stands of trees diminish my experience in the forest while not knowing where the shots are coming from negatively impacts my recreation. I have also personally seen shooters using the forest for target practice during a fire ban that forbid shooting. I am concerned about their impacts on the health of the forest and the sustainability or recreation in the area for years to come. Mountain biking is rapidly growing and the increased emphasis that the Colorado Springs area is putting on the sport, means that land managers should adapt to enabling more users. The City has embarked on master plans that will make the area a destination and the recent Apex mountain bike race shows deep value of the trails near Old Stage. I believe limited and restricting target shooting is the most effective way to ensure different forms of recreation will be supported in the future. I fear a no action scenario would make the area too damaged, disturbed, unsafe, and scary to allow me and fellow mountain bikers and hikers to enjoy the national forest in this area.