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Comments: Thank you for the chance to comment! I run the Pikes Peak APEX--a 4 day mountain bike challenge in the Pikes Peak Region. During training and our event, we have run into many shooters out near the mountain bike trails. On one pre-ride, we saw a full militia training event going on right next to FS 626 just off of Gold Camp. Honestly it was scary--full armor, huge guns, explosives, etc. I was with a few riders from out of town and they couldn't believe it. They had cleared an entire hillside of trees with automatic rifles and the amount of ammo they were using was amazing. I also hear gunfire just about every time I ride FS 715 in Limbaugh Canyon--it seems close and you have no idea what they are shooting toward.

If we want to have the Pikes Peak region be a national/international destination for recreation, we have to make sure we don't allow this dispersed shooting. No question that this user group is important and they need their spaces to shoot, but it should be FAR away from where others are recreating. Mountain bikers, hikers, fisherman, jeep tour companies, and moto users can all work together to use the same areas, but when you bring guns into the situation it changes everything. The risk of a mistake is death by firearm, and hikers/mountain bikers and shooting don't mix well.

The key is enforcement--whatever decision is made it MUST be enforced. I realize that the USFS is under resourced, but this is going to be a very important part of the plan. Without enforcement, nothing is fixed. And the repercussions of non-enforcement of militia training is way worse than a hiker/cyclists/jeep being on a trail they shouldn't be on.

Thanks again for taking comments and I hope we can fix this! --Micah Rice