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Last name: Duncan

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

To Whom it may concern:

February 4, 2021

It has come to my attention that you are requesting public comment regarding the firing range 9 miles North of Woodland Park on Hwy 67.

I am a neighbor about a mile North of the shooting range. I am sure you are already aware of the fires that are started at the shooting range every year. The area has grown up with brush and grass sufficiently since the fire twenty years ago so that a moderate wind from the West and continued decreased rain makes it very likely that the fire would jump the highway, and place my property at great risk along with my neighbors. I manage a reforestation project with the able assistance of the forest service on my homestead. We have now essentially replaced all the trees that were lost in the Hayman fire 20 years ago and now am primarily working on mitigation.

Perhaps I should tell you a bit more about myself. I learned to shoot when in 4H in classes taught by the NRA. That proved to be invaluable because I was raised by a single mother. I learned gun safety and proper ways to shoot. I served in the military and qualified as expert on every type of hand-held weapon the Air Force has in its arsenal. I am a physician and in my days working the ER, I witnessed first hand both the accidental GSWs as well as those that were purposeful. I witnessed self inflicted wounds and suicides. The major reason that males are more often successful in suicide attempts is that they generally use guns rather than pills which are more common in females. I am a gun owner and my guns are properly locked up.

I am also sure that you are aware of the man who was camping in Rainbow Falls with his wife and children and was struck and killed from an errant shot from the range or an angry shooter and a murder.

I am also sure that you are aware that shooting goes on at night from the range. I suspect that you are aware that when it is closed due to Red Flag and the gate is locked, you will frequently see empty cars parked outside the gate. On those days the gunshots are present.

I also suspect that you are aware that frequent exploding targets and automatic weapons are used. My neighbors have found errant lead from people shooting up in the air at the range. The most common targets are beer bottles although these bottles are empty when shot at, I am sure they were full on arrival. Almost anything you can think of has been used as a target including stoves and refrigerators.

And, in case you would like to discuss 2nd amendment rights, along with those rights one must be law abiding and use proper gun safety. For instance shoot at targets that are proper targets. Police your area prior to leaving. Do not drink alcohol and/or use drugs when target practicing. Obey all laws as well as common sense.

I would make several suggestions.

1. Put a person on the gate when the range is open for use.
2. Make those using the range jointly liable for damage that is caused while they are at the range.
3. When the range is closed, those that break into it should be arrested.
4. No shooting after sundown (or earlier) or after sunset (or earlier) depending on when the gate is monitored.
5. No exploding targets, glass targets, animal targets.
6. If the range has trash or broken glass to be cleaned up that would # 2 above would apply.
7. The shooting area should be moved further west over the next small ridge so as to keep the noise level down

for those of us who live here. It would also make errant shots less dangerous.

I am enclosing a photo of the stop sign as an example of what the unsupervised shooters do if they happen to have any rounds left as they leave. This is shooting across a well traveled highway blindly.

The use fee only needs to be enough to pay for maintenance and supervision. Failure to properly control this range may place some liability back on the forest service as you already know how it is being used and permit it to continue.

I would be happy to discuss further personally.

Sincerely

sorry to embed this it is small. I am unable to make it into an attachment with this computer so I made it very small. If it does not load I would be happy to send the image seperately.