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Comments: Comments on project 57807:

During both "webinars" in which I participated, the panel members stated clearly the USFS wants substantive comments to be "what you want". If the USFS wishes to avoid my legal challenge(s) to developing the Turkey Tracks shooting range, you will ensure the following criteria is met:

1. Many of the conditions described in Table 3 under "Conditions based adaptive management of target shooting" exist today: Trash, night shooting, fires, etc... in violation of existing signage / posted rules indicating management actions to date have been ineffective. The proposed "Adaptive Management" process is inadequate for a Turkey Tracks range.

Requirement: The USFS must provide for full-time on-site supervision during designated open hours of Turkey Tracks if chosen for development. This on-site supervision must have the authority to close the range and the ability to quickly contact public safety organizations (fire, medical, law enforcement) if required. Note there is currently no cellular phone coverage or any other means to call for help from Turkey Tracks.

2. Part of the USFS adaptive management plan is to "increase patrols of the area by law enforcement or forest protection officers" when conditions dictate. The Douglas County Sheriff only has two resident deputies covering this area and response times for calls requiring assets from vicinity of Castle Rock / Sedalia (proper) is typically measured in hours. Additionally, we've been told by USFS management there is only one forest service enforcement officer covering a vast area, again with extremely long response time to calls.

Requirement: The USFS will hire / assign at least one additional forest protection officers for the Pikes Peak region and establish formal support agreements with the Douglas County Sheriff, Teller County Sheriff and Woodland Park Police Department to provide for timely response to calls for assistance and whom is responsible for additional patrols if needed.

3. Your plan fails to specify operating hours for a proposed Turkey Tracks range.

Requirement: USFS will specify shooting hours which will be only during periods of daylight and the range will be physically closed (locked gate) during off hours. Additionally, there will be penalties designated for violating operating hours of the Turkey Tracks range complex.

4. Every season there are numerous fires and medical emergencies in & around the Turkey Tracks range which are principally responded to by Mountain Communities Volunteer Fire Department (MCVFD). Closure of existing dispersed shooting areas (e.g., Rampart Range Road) will significantly increase both automobile traffic and number of people utilizing a Turkey Tracks range, and the potential calls for medical and / or fire & rescue services provided by MCVFD.

Requirement: USFS must provide additional resources (funding) to MCVFD to train & equip additional personnel which will be required to provide for public safety at Turkey Tracks. This "bill" must NOT land on the shoulders of current Douglas County tax payers via an increased mill levy or fees.

5. We live in Trout Creek Ranch Estates, which is within 2 kilometers Turkey Tracks. The sound of discharging firearms is clearly heard within our development, even inside our homes.

Requirement: Any developed ranges at Turkey Tracks will utilize a full complement of noise mitigation construction techniques (berms, side walls, overhead structures, etc...) in order to minimize noise leaving the range complex. Additionally, if Turkey Tracks is selected for development, the range area will be fully shut-down during construction and individual ranges will not be opened until & unless ALL noise mitigation features have been completely installed.

6. The adaptive management plan fails to specify the criteria for "excess trash" at the range which will result in closure, and who will make the determination. Again, this problem exists today and your plan fails to provide any detail explaining how expanding the range facility will mitigate the trash problem.

Requirement: The USFS plan for Turkey Tracks must include detailed & funded accommodations for regular trash removal and periodic closures for clean-up. This plan must include who is responsible for trash removal and clean-up operations and penalties for range users who fail to clean-up their own areas after use.

7. Based on the 20 Jan updated site design on the USFS website: The "Traditional Rifle Galleries" are all oriented with a direction of fire to ensure hi-errant rounds are likely to fall into the Trout Creek subdivision, well within the maximum fall of shot of most rifles larger than 22 Cal rim fire. Additionally, one of the two 50M omnidirectional rifle galleries is oriented with direction of fire toward Hwy 67, which means hi-errant shots will cross Hwy 67.

Requirement: Any developed ranges at Turkey Tracks will utilize a full complement of ballistic errant round protection features (berms, side walls, overhead structures, etc...) in order to minimize the likelihood of errant shots exiting the range at angles which would allow them to fall into Trout Creek Ranch. Additionally, if Turkey Tracks is selected for development, the range area will be fully shut-down during construction and individual ranges will not be opened until & unless ALL ballistic protection features have been completely installed.

8. With anticipated increased use of the proposed Turkey Tracks range there's a need for bathroom facilities at the range, yet none are discussed in the scoping document or depicted on the latest proposed site map for Turkey Tracks.

Requirement: USFS will plans, fund & install bathroom facilities at Turkey Tracks if selected for development.