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Title:

Comments: Based on all of the work you all have already put into this plan, we realize that it's probably too late now and that the decision to build the Harris Park Public Shooting Range is a done deal. Very sad that the community here is just now hearing about this. We have owned property and lived in Harris Park for many, many years. It seems like just because there is an unofficial shooting range near here, the Forest Service has decided that constructing an "officially sanctioned" shooting range is a no brainer. The thinking is understandable given that the individuals making the decisions don't have to live near the range. The range is approximately one mile from what most in this area would consider a heavily populated mountain town, a town whose population is growing consistently. Activity at the current range has increased over the years and most of the people who use the range are not from this area. Because of this, many of them don't care what they do or leave behind. Exploding targets, automatic weapons, a wildfire at the range a few years ago, the noise, piles upon piles of trash left behind by the users, drunkards, no management or oversight by anyone or any agency, and above all, just another way to lower the property values of the residents of an area that has been financially depressed for decades. If the USFS wants to build a shooting range, the range should be nowhere near a populated town, let alone Harris Park. There are tens of thousands of acres of USFS land in the State of Colorado where a shooting range could be built and where it would not have a negative effect on any nearby community. Again, it's very easy for a group of individual who have no vested interest in a particular area, to make negative decisions for all of the individuals who do care and do have an interest in that area. Before proceeding with the build out of this shooting range, the decision makers should ask themselves how they would feel about having a public shooting range within 1 mile of where they live. All new shooting ranges should then be built within one mile of the homes of all of the decision makers who claim that they would not care if a range were to be built in their neighborhood.