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Organization:

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Comments: We live 2.5 miles as the crow flies from the Turkey Tracks shooting area. Especially in the warmer weather, we hear shooting from 7 am until well after dark. This shooting is not just a random shot or two - it is continuous, automatic fire. With the mountains around us, it echos and echos. Our property borders the Pike National Forest and we like to hike. Some days, we are afraid because we don't know for sure where the shots are coming from. Our little dog is afraid to go outside when there is shooting.

Our biggest fear is the fire danger from the shooting. It's common in our neighborhood for word to get out that there is a fire at Turkey Tracks. Despite mitigation of the area, fires continue to happen there. What do these shooters do who cause the fires - they bail! They jump in their vehicles and leave their mess behind. After all, most don't live in this area. It's not their problem. Mountain Communities Volunteer Fire Department is burdened with having to respond to all these preventable fires.

The National Forest is there for everyone to enjoy what it has to offer - hiking, camping, relaxing. This is hardly the case with bullets flying around for hours. Turkey Tracks is not supervised. Even at supervised shooting ranges there have been accidental shootings. It is only a matter of time before someone is hurt or killed from the stray bullets flying around the unsupervised shooting area. Stray bullets have landed in the Westcreek Lakes area.

The people who live in the areas surrounding Turkey Tracks are paying the price of having a shooting range in the National Forest - incessant noise, stray bullets flying and precluding use of the area for other activities, and the risk of fire. Fire will destroy the landscape of the forest, kill wildlife, and potentially threaten and destroy nearby homes. That is a heavy burden to pay. Let the shooters pay to shoot in a commercial range that is more controlled.