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Organization:

Title:

Comments: National Forest #57807

I am writing this letter to voice my concerns over the proposed shooting range known as Turkey Tracks. Having lived in the neighboring community for 2.5 years, I have concerns and recommendations that I would like taken into consideration:

Pollution: Trash and shell casings are left in the forest on a regular basis. Many times household items like major appliances and bathroom fixtures are dumped at the site, shot into pieces, and left in the forest. Many organizations work to limit their footprint in/on the forest and take care of the forest. There needs to be some kind of trash mitigation plan at the proposed site.

Noise: Shooting noise interferes with my right to private enjoyment at my home. It echos down the valley and across the mountain. Some days it can be heard from sun up until sun down nonstop. I would assume the noise interferes/impacts with animal habitat and behaviors too? There needs to be sound barriers built at the proposed site. Hours of operations for noise vs quiet enjoyment need to be defined and enforced.

Property Damage: I have witnessed damage to the forest as shooters shoot at live trees just to see how long it will take until the tree falls over. There has been property damage with shooting the IREA capacitor on our property. There needs to be some guidelines and enforcement of what weapon is legal to shoot at the range and what items are legal to shoot.

Shooter Overflow and Access: Shooters overflow from the current Turkey Track range off HWY 67 down FR 343 into unsafe areas where people ATV and hike. Closing off access to FR 343 will provide more safety for other people to recreate in the area. As overflow areas are closed and more traffic is pushed into the Turkey Tracks range, this range will require more traffic control, parking area, and safer access on/off HWY 67. The gate should be closed during unsafe weather conditions and during hours of quiet enjoyment.

Signage: Increased signage in the entire community area warning of shooting in the area, where it is legal to shoot, and where it is not legal to shoot. This will enhance safety for everyone's awareness and potentially promote more compliance with the shooting community.

Fee for service: Many entities use of the National Forest for recreation; hunters, ATV's, hikers, Christmas tree cutting, fishing, etc. Several of these entities require licensure, permits, and/or have fees for day usage. I feel the shooting range should be no exception especially considering all the work it will take to build, maintain, and resources used to service over time.

Employment vs Volunteer use: Many places of enjoyment have some kind of person attending the entry point and monitoring the area of service (i.e: parks, campgrounds, boat launches, picnic areas etc.). Currently many agencies currently attend to Turkey Tracks for various reasons: police, fire, volunteer trash pick up, etc. Could this site be managed with an agent of some nature daily (or at least on weekends) to open and close the gate? Collect fee for use? Monitor capacity limit vs overflow? Monitor for safety concerns and have quick access to First Responders if needed?

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to seeing an agreeable solution evolve for all involved.

Sharilyn Bieske.