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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Concerns related to shooting in general

1.Environmental concerns - the biggest issue I see is trash. I have no problems with people bringing store bought or improvised targets, however, signs do need to be posted and fine implemented to a very severe degree for not picking up and transporting out all trash. In addition, those who choose to shoot should carry contractor clean-up bags, tarps, rakes, and brooms to adequately clean up after themselves. Signs should include a phone number to report those who do not comply.

2.Vegetation in shooting areas is going to be difficult to maintain in terms of any shooting. However, the environmental impact is in small areas and should not be a factor in limiting 2nd amendment rights. The shooting of trees is a problem and shooting right into a tree should be fined. Shooting into an earth barrier should be encouraged and where there are no natural barriers, those area should be subject to the ban.

3.Water - this might be an issue that deserves further study. Shooting is far enough away from streams, water sources, and residents. The amount of lead that leaks into the water has not been proven to have long-term effects. I would continue to monitor water supplies.

4.Noise - While this is a valid concern, most residents in the community came here knowing this and expecting to hear shooting from time to time. New residents will need to be informed of this aspect of the community.

Dispersed shooting specifics

1.You shouldn't be able to shoot just anywhere, but more designated areas and safe shooting spots can be marked to limit shooting to those areas with a natural earth barrier or similar areas. To assist in this, at dispersed campsites, shooting lanes can be established and marked with signage to indicate proper safe direction of shooting.

2.Related to road wear and tear and damage to land because of cars and parking. Parking should be limited to 3 cars per site. The cars that park here are not limited to shooters, so this perceived issue will continue whether sites are shut down or not.

3.Roads and Traffic - the National Forest Service already has enough roads in place to handle shooters and other recreational activity. Traffic should not increase or decrease based on shooting being allowed or not.

4.Multi-use aspect - Conflicts between shooters and other recreational activities can be handled with designated shooting lanes with backstops. Certain areas that could be a hazard to anyone should be restricted to dispersed shooting.

5.Dispersed shooting is a tradition in our national forests. Many families teach their children or families how to shoot in dispersed campground shooting. Shooting ranges are loud and intimidating in this respect. With responsible individuals and proper education, it can be done in a safe and responsible manner respecting environmental, safety concerns, and keeping 2nd amendment rights.

Harris Park Range Specifics

1.I would like it to remain a fee-free area (or for frequent users, maybe a yearly pass similar to the state park).

Otherwise it can become cost prohibitive. Those of us who live in the area could have local privileges.

2.The design shown for this range concerns me for a couple reasons. First, you have a half moon shape design, so muzzles are within 30-40 degrees of each other (these should be at least 90 degrees). And in some cases, you have shooting lines positioned behind other shooting lines by several feet.

3.The current design has 2 shooting lines, going in opposite directions. If safety regulations are followed, muzzles are 90 degrees from those on the same line and 180 degrees from those on the opposite line. This safer than the new designs.

4.The shooting lines need to be in a straight line. The current "line" leaves much to interpretation by shooters and results in some people standing farther back from the line and causes safety concerns. I would recommend a fence built as a shooting line where everyone should stand to shoot and make it clear that the shooter stands right at this line to shoot. The fence could have breaks with squares to shoot prone or tables to shoot seated or to bench rest shoot. This will also appeal to the ADA rules.

5.The current design on one side has an adequate mountainside as a backdrop, the other side could benefit from a larger berm for extra safety.

6.The problem with designating lanes for different firearms is that people show up with various types of firearms to shoot on a current day. A lane can be designated for a group where they would be responsible for the safety and cleanup of that area. We don't want to have people moving from area to area just to shoot a different weapon.

7.We do need a way to shut down the line to enter the shooting area safely to set up targets. A safety concern is getting the whole line to put down their weapons to safely enter the range. I'm not sure how this can be accomplished - Flags? Lights?

8.Harris Park definitely needs trash service. Perhaps a cleanup time 1 ½ hours before sunset. If dumpsters are provided, you may put your waste in there (people still need to gather their trash in bags and rake up their trash). Otherwise, trash should be taken out.

9.A port-a-potty would be great. If this was a fee area, I would expect a port-a-potty and trash service be included.

10.The two shooting line model has developed organically and works great. The parking is adequate. The area can handle many shooters of various ranges. It is ideal to preserve this site as the environment has been altered already. To move or close this range would move shooters to other areas.

11.A reporting line should be established for reporting 2 things - shooters not following safety regulations or shooters not picking up trash. Display the rules and the number at the entrance to the range and for the reporting line. Fines should be steep!

In conclusion, we feel Park County and Pike National Forest remains true to the 2nd amendment and the rights of individuals to use these public lands. At the same time, we do see that safety and environmental concerns are an issue. We believe that with proper cooperation and education of the community as a whole that these issues can be dealt with while respecting all recreational users.