

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/21/2021 2:52:05 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I think that recreational shooting opportunities in the National Forest should come second to the health, safety and security of our lands. The ability to recreate is a privilege NOT a right. As we have seen just by looking at the Turkey Tracks range that privilege has been seriously abused and should be revoked.

There are numerous issues with having shooting ranges in the National Forest:

*Fire danger- how many fires have to start before USFS gets that this is no longer a safe activity to allow people to engage in?

*Noise pollution- neighboring homes and those who wish to enjoy the peace of nature can no longer do so anywhere near any ranges.

*Disruption to wildlife- living in a wild area I can firsthand attest to the significant decrease in wildlife I see due to recreational shooting, nothing else has changed except the everyday shooting disruption that is occurring.

*Trash- everywhere shooting is allowed there is a huge increase in trash, spent rounds and debris. This trash blows into neighboring areas and becomes out of control.

*Danger- no one is monitoring these ranges and people are drunk and often shooting in an unsafe manner.

Unanswered questions from the meetings you have held so far:

*How will the USFS manage these proposed sites with a limited budget? Noise mitigation is very expensive. Protection against noise pollution is addressed in the Clean Air Act.

*Why are there pro-shooting advocates on your team but not one representative from the local neighborhoods that are directly affected? That is biased from the start.

*Will the USFS assume liability for fire damage, noise violations per the state noise ordinance and property damage? Are you prepared for these lawsuits?

*Will ALL public comments be made available on your website? Transparency is extremely important for this matter.

*Will all shooting in NFs be banned during red flag warnings/high fire danger days?

The USFS needs to take the responsibility for allowing shooting on our public lands WAY more seriously than it has done in the past. I am glad you are looking more closely at this, but I think you are biased towards allowing this very dangerous activity on our public lands. I also do not feel you have the funds to allow this activity safely and without disruption to neighbors and wildlife. AGAIN this is a recreational activity vs. health and safety matters. The two simply do not compare. Health and safety concerns will ALWAYS trump a recreational activity.

Thank you