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Organization:

Title:

Comments: This is a terrible idea. I have been shooting in Pike National forest for over 30 years and it is already much more restricted than it was previously. I have never observed or experienced anyone shooting in a careless manner. I'm sure it happens, but it is not a problem. I have taught many people to shoot responsibly in the woods. If they want to go to a shooting range, there are already many existing. Sure, some trees get shot and destroyed but once again, it is not a widespread problem. There's always some "kuckleheads" that ruin things for everyone. When in the forest we pick up "messes" left by these types and bring them home for disposal. We have many times called the Ranger district to advise them of large items dumped in the forest to try to prevent them being shot to pieces and becoming a big mess. This idea seems to be just another attempt by anti-gun people to further reduce the freedom of others. Already the first 4 miles of Rampart Range Road are closed to shooting due to complaints of people "scared" by shooters. Were any of the incidents leading to this closure/restriction proven? Why is it that the shooting sports always seem to be restricted? Why not close the first 4 miles of Rampart Range Road to everything except shooting and push the other sports further into the forest? It never seems to go that way. I know that shooters have made impromptu shooting ranges/dumps in the forest. These disgust me as they tend to attract misbehaving people that just keep making these areas worse and also attract criminals wanting to steal guns. Shooting at a designated range in the forest is not a fair trade for the ability to shoot freely (but responsibly) while hiking, camping or target shooting. Shooting ranges are too restrictive and do not well simulate conditions encountered while hunting. There are already too many restrictions in place in the forest. Please drop this proposal.