

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/21/2021 6:46:21 AM
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Comments: Pike National Forest
Pikes peak, South Platte and South Park Districts
Comment on Project #87507

Good day; In reviewing the published material justifying the reduction of available public shooting areas in the Pike National Forest we question the reduction of allowable shooting areas from 100's to a minimum of 3 and the proposed 7 to be enacting regulations that will effectively deny public shooting to the vast majority of the recreational shooting public. No-one condones destruction of the forest as the result of irresponsible use of the resource, however, the elimination of 99% of the currently used areas seems disingenuous. Along with identifying areas to be withdrawn, a major effort should be made to identify appropriate sites with safe shooting background and good access to discourage stopping at the first curve with a tree. Areas pointed out in the Project pictures, where appropriate with minimal ongoing threat to the forest can be cleaned up and continued in use.

In the past ten years a "semi-formal" shooting area with Forest Service installed railings on FS roads 1059 - 108 and mapped as the "Harris Park Shooting Range" has frequently been effectively closed to senior citizens such as myself, the physically challenged (including disabled veterans) and families by the tactic of closing the area for "road repairs", for years at a time. This has rendered it a hike-in facility of over a mile and a half in steep terrain and, over 2 miles from any available parking.

We encourage the Forest Service and the Districts to work toward solutions that allow the hundreds of thousands of recreational shooters fair use of our National Forest.