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Comments: "The Proposed Action in brief

The issues raised by the growing popularity of target shooting in general and the damage resulting from unsafe shooting, in particular, are complex. They will require a detailed plan to resolve." It seems to me that those in favor of the restriction of shooting in the Pike National Forest want this issue to be complex. It is not. The right to keep and bear arms is second only to our rights of free expression and assembly in importance. This includes practicing shooting wherever and whenever possible. Restrictions on this activity are unpalatable, and the growing number of people target shooting in Pike National Forest are a testament to this. As Tacitus understood nearly 2,000 years ago: "When the state is most corrupt, then laws [restrictions] are most multiplied." If unsafe and pollutive shooters are the main issue, then this matter is best addressed through better instruction, social disapproval, and more acceptance of shooting sports in general. Land use in national forests is governed for the best interests of multiple users. Appeasing a vocal minority who seek to erode our constitutional rights is one step in a very frightful direction. Making the issue more complex than it needs to be is the means to obfuscate and confuse what should and can be a simple issue: improving the behavior of those who choose to shoot in Pike National Forest.