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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support the proposed plan to establish shooting ranges in the Pike National Forest and to close many dispersed shooting locations that are negatively impacting the environment and user experience.

As a woman who enjoys trail running and mountain biking, I often frequent Old Stage Road as a way to connect to the Jones, Pipeline and Lake Moraine trails; however the lack of responsibility by many of the individuals using Old Stage road as a location for dispersed shooting makes me highly uncomfortable using that area. The amount of trash, shot-up trees and total disregard for the policies that are in place for dispersed shooting is sad to see.

Knowing that this area has turned into a place with no regard for the rules leaves me very nervous for my personal safety. During one ride this summer I had an encounter with a man who was clearly tripping on drugs and my only option was to hide in the trees off the side of the road while I waited for him to pass so that I wouldn't have to see him again. As I was hiding in the woods, I was sending out text messages to my husband with my location and the man's description. I was truly afraid for my life.

I am fully in support of the rights of gun owners to shoot in the forest; however, the blatant disregard of the rules by a small number of people has left no other option that to more carefully manage target shooting through the establishment of shooting ranges and the closure of poorly managed dispersed shooting sites.