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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Submitted electronically on February 22, 2021 <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=57807>

Jennifer DeWoody
2840 Kachina Drive
Pueblo, CO 81008

Dear Ms. DeWoody and the Pike National Forest;

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed Integrated Management of Target Shooting on the Pike National Forest, #57807.

My family has had a cabin in the Tarryall Valley of South Park for 20+ years and we spend much of our time there on the National Forest, hiking, fishing, birdwatching and enjoying the peace and quiet that the Forest provides. Our cabin neighborhood is surrounded by National Forest lands and has 2 roads connecting the neighborhood to the Forest: FS 141 and FS 143.

Over the years the amount of recreational shooting on the Forest (shooting is not allowed within the neighborhood) has increased tremendously to the point that the likelihood of encountering shooters often impacts our decisions to hike the surrounding area. The sound of semi-automatic weapons often begins early on weekend mornings and many times continues past dark. I have many times been returning from a hike on Nate Stultz Trail only to have shooting start somewhere downhill. This is a very uncomfortable situation to be in. After calling out to alert shooters to my presence, there have been too many times when they have continued shooting in spite of my alert.

Returning from hiking in Lost Creek Wilderness along the Rock Creek Hills Road (CR 39) on weekends is also concerning, as it seems every single dispersed campsite has a shooting target set up, lots of folks taking part, OHV's traveling in all directions and plenty of other distractions. The potential for a horrible accident is great.

My husband and I fully support the proposed establishment of a designated shooting range on each of the Pike Ranger Districts and limiting shooting elsewhere on the Forest.

Thank you,

Misi N. Ballard
Robert T Ballard