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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for responding to our letters and informing us of the public comment site for fire arms.

Land owners that live within the Pikes Peak National Forest can't do anything to close their land from the public because the Forest Service (FS) won't close roads or trails for fear of repercussions from Teller County and OHV enthusiasts. Despite, the public having a road at the same intersection that is maintained year around. Our land hasn't had any time to recover from the Hayman fire and even today it is difficult to do fire mitigation with the public zooming down the road. Landowners have to put up with trash, illegal shooting, black water dumping, property damages, illegal camp fires, deer shot in the middle of the road towards a private home, and whatever destructive whim the public wants to do.

The National Forest System is under bombardment for the exponential increase of people moving to Colorado and their recreational activities. Law Enforcement may be out in the forest but they aren't as effective as the FS portrays. There is just too much forest area and minimal law enforcement officers and the public knows it.

Here are some ways the FS can assist private land owners:

1. When a land owner complains of campers that have targets on trees and are shooting toward their land, the FS can block the camping area and/or install signs for no shooting.
2. Create an undeveloped shooting area where shooters will not be aiming toward trails or private homes, the area to be far enough where shooting will not be a noise nuisance to land owners, and at a minimum install an information board informing the public of all the rules and to take out everything that they bring in.
3. Minimize the amount of traffic on our road (now known as County Road 51) by installing a National Forest Access sign on County Road 3. Many campers don't know the forest can be accessed by County Road 3.
4. There is still a problem with the public trespassing on what they previously thought was Forest. Where there is a problem with public trespassing, the FS can install signs that the public is going through private property and must stay on road.
5. The OHV Registration already has a successful program for the public to register their OHVs. Many campers don't pay attention to fire bans and then play ignorant or become hostile when confronted. Last year's fire damage is only a precursor for what the future will entail with global warming. Update the OHV site for the public to get a camp fire permit. Along with a pamphlet on fire bans and camp fire rules.
6. I called Teller County Sheriff twice about illegal camp fires and when I asked them what action they took, they answered that the camp fires were legal because of camp fire rings. Our area is undeveloped and has no camp fire rings. It needs to be decided who will respond to illegal camp fires the FS or Teller County Sheriff and give the names and numbers of who will respond.

Think how you would feel if we were to build a camp fire in your front yard on fire burn restriction and/or red flag day every weekend. We are tired of worrying that all our years of hard work and home can be burned any given weekend. The fact is the public is going to continue thinking they can do anything they want in the forest. Because of this mentality our home is no longer the pleasant retirement we dreamed of when we bought our land in 1990. We are tired of fighting an unwinnable battle and thus we are looking at moving.