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Organization:

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Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on target shooting in the Pike NF. My wife and I hike at all seasons of the year; we enjoy the South Platte area in fall, winter, and spring and the Gold Camp Road area from late spring into the fall. We believe target shooting is a legitimate recreational activity. My wife was actually on the riflery team as a student at Kansas State University long ago.

We have been appalled by the volume of shell casings along Gold Camp Road and its side roads and have picked up many sackfuls of casings on our visits. By summertime weekends, we contend with target shooters, who most often seem to shoot at trees, often with rock outcrops in the background. Once, hiking back from Almagre Mtn. to Frosty Park on a Saturday afternoon, there were so many shooters expending so much ammunition, we feared for our safety and have since confined our visits to weekdays.

In the South Platte area we occasionally see target shooters but not in the numbers we see along Gold Camp Road. The most horrifying event was seeing a gentleman shooting a rifle up the hill from the road into the woods where the trail from the South Platte goes on its way to Reynolds Park.

I see that on Hwy. 103, near Echo Lake, a shooting range was recently established. Prior to that, target shooting took place all along the road. In fact, mountain hikers informally called an otherwise unnamed summit east of Devils Nose "Guns Gathering."

Thus, I am in favor of target shooting being allowed in designated areas and shooters strongly encouraged to police their brass.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.