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First name: Daniel

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good Day,

I've reviewed the revised proposal and draft site designs for Project 57807 and have the following concerns about facility design(s) for Turkey Tracks AND the Adaptive Management proposal:

Facilities:

1. Health & Sanitation issue: Your plans have no accommodations for trash receptacles or toilet facilities. When USFS reduces or closes other disbursed shooting areas (e.g., Rampart Range Road, etc...) there will be significant more utilization of the Turkey Tracks Range facility than we see today. You need to include BOTH trash receptacles and bathroom facilities in your build plans AND budget.
2. Safety issue: Today, the only way for patrons using the Turkey Tracks Range to call for emergency assistance is via VERY spotty & inconsistent cellular phone coverage. It has not been uncommon for people to drive a substantial distance from the current range in order to make an emergency (911) call. USFS needs to install some dependable means for patrons to contact emergency services (e.g., wired or wireless call box, local cellular tower, etc...)

Management Plan:

1. I have developed & managed numerous programs & plans at the federal level within DoD. Your Adaptive Management Framework for Developed Target Shooting Ranges makes the BAD set of assumptions that the facilities build-out will somehow result in improvement of conditions we see today (unsafe shooting, trash, etc...). Put differently, if your proposed Framework were to be applied today, there would be more than sufficient "Management Triggers" activated NOW to warrant supervising / manning the facility, prohibiting night shooting & designating open / close hours, charging use fee(s), locking the back gate and emplacing a Kiosk at the front gate to provide supervisory controls. Your plan as written today basically says USFS (and partners) are going to pour-in a few million dollars of taxpayer money to develop the Turkey Tracks Range facility, then step-back and see what happens before taking additional management action(s). This approach turns a blind-eye to conditions as they exist today, is an irresponsible approach to a significant expenditure of taxpayer dollars and will result in higher end-game costs through your proposed incremental management approach.
2. You need to explore the management USFS is providing to Manitou Lake Picnic Area just a few miles down the road from Turkey Tracks. That facility is a shining example of success and as far as I know is relatively problem free. Manitou Lakes is gated, access control via a manned Kiosk during designated Open Hours & fees. This facility is clean, safe, and well maintained. USFS & Partners need to emulate the Manitou Lakes management model and expend the necessary resources to build-out & emplace management controls as I describe in this note at Turkey Tracks FROM THE START, else you will end up wasting public monies as you revamp & adapt to conditions you know are in place today! Do this right...From the start!

Thank you for your attention.

D. Voth

CAPT(ret), USN