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Comments: Thanks for working on this difficult problem.

The proposed action, alternative 2, is the best alternative, and is needed for safety and enforcement. Alternative 3, allowing shooting in more areas, does not adequately address public safety, fires, resource damage, and enforcement.

Given that bullets can easily travel more than a mile and people have been hit by stray bullets in Pike national forest, 1/4 mile from trailheads, campsites, etc., and 150 feet from trails seems woefully inadequate. Alternative 2 is a bare minimum for closure. The Revised Proposed Action and Alternatives with Preliminary Analyses says (page 14) that a concern was that closure buffers were not wide enough around NFS Trails. Yet the revisions made do not address this concern (page 14 to 15). Alternative 3, continuing to allow shooting in more areas, is insufficient.

Enforcement is crucial. One need only drive along Old Stage Road and Gold Camp Road from Colorado Springs to see that shooters do not obey current regulations. They shoot where target shooting is not allowed. Even where shooting is legal, they don't follow reasonable regulations, but shoot near roads and trails, shoot trees, shoot signs, leave trash, don't have an adequate, if any, backstop. Shooters don't follow current laws and regulations. Adding restrictions will not suddenly make shooters follow laws and regulations without enforcement. Alternative 2 considers access for enforcement, so alternative 2, the proposed action, is far superior to alternative 3.

Using adaptive management to address problems seems like a good idea.

Alternative 2, the proposed action, is needed.