

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/21/2023 4:29:27 PM

First name: Sharilyn

Last name: Bieske

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The USDA National Forest Service has the motto of "Caring for the Land and Serving the People". I feel this motto is not being truly represented in the integrated management and development of Turkey Tracks dispersed target shooting within the Pike National Forest.

I have read through a vast majority of the 529 written responses received January - February 2021. In conclusion, most people feel an integrated management and development of the shooting range is a good option overall, however it requires further evaluation, development, and regulation. While not completely voiding the proposed plan, several items of concerns repeatedly brought into light have not been addressed within the new plan. While asking public opinion, I feel the Forest Service has failed to take the public comment into full consideration. Ultimately failing to promote cohesiveness between the local community, target shooters, and the USDA Forest Service.

Areas of concern for further development plans:

1. Trash and clean up of debris. I would not expect this to be an ongoing responsibility of Focus on the Forest and target shooter self policing is not working.
2. Noise mitigation. Shooting noise continues to overflow into the surrounding area with impact of wildlife, peaceful enjoyment by neighboring communities, and other nearby guest users of the forest (hikers, campers, ATV, etc).
3. Hours of operation specifically omitting shooting at night. Set times of use with gate access would be beneficial.
4. Fee for use structure. As with many other recreational uses of public land, target shooters should have to pay a fee to offset resources involved in development, maintenance, emergency services, etc.
5. Daily staffing would aid in monitoring use, collection of day use fees, compliance with rules, and have a safety point person for emergencies.
6. Impact on local emergency services; Police, Fire, EMS. How will this impact be staffed and funded? Again, a key component to aid in this is a 'Fee for Use' with associated tax specific for these services.
7. Traffic control and highway maintenance at the intersection of HWY 67 will need improvement. Potentially adding a turn lane enter/exit to the range would be beneficial.
8. Close off Forest Road 343 to CR 78 to prevent overflow of the shooting area would address a lot of community concerns with neighboring safety, noise, trash, etc.

I am urging you to carefully reconsider the public opinion you solicited and act responsibly in developing this plan. I have viewed the development plan of the shooting ranges, but again the above mentioned issues are not addressed in full detail and could have long lasting negative impact on the forest, surrounding communities, and overall long term success of this shooting range. This project has been ongoing for several years. A bit more time to get it done right will not go unnoticed and only promote successful community integration.

The USDA National Forest Service motto of "Caring for the Land and Serving the People" could be upheld with thoughtful consideration and implementation for an all encompassing development plan.

Thank you,  
Sharilyn Bieske