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Comments: The Douglas County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) provides law enforcement services to the Turkey Tracks shooting range and surrounding Douglas County residents of the Trout Creek and West Creek subdivisions. The Turkey Tracks shooting range continues to be a notable location with a higher-than-average calls for service volume such as grass fires, shooting complaints, criminal mischief and negligent discharge shooting incidents that have resulted in bodily injury. The DCSO and Mountain Communities Fire Department have partnered to provide a public safety message to range users about fire prevention and firearms safety.

On March 27, 2023, DCSO Executive and Command Staff met with residents, and Mountain Communities Fire personnel who made concerning reports of user activity occurring at Turkey Tracks. Prior to the meeting DCSO Staff toured the facility and found the road to be difficult to navigate as it was cratered and non-maintained. Concerns were apparent that if there were a forest fire and/or medical emergency, fire personnel, equipment, particularly medical transporting vehicles would have difficulty responding to the scene.

While surveying the property, the following concerns were observed to include ranges that had unsafe shooting targets established that were placed above berm(s) in an unsafe manner, which would allow rounds fired to be directed at or towards State Highway 67 and/or populated residential areas. Also observed were damaged or cut steel fencing, which allowed vehicles into restricted areas of the property. At many of the ranges, trees were utilized as targets and on one range, a large Ponderosa Pine tree was observed extensively damaged/cutdown by gunfire. Thousands of spent ammunition cartridges and shotgun shells were observed throughout area to include roadways and pull off areas. Also observed were broken household appliances, car parts, propane tanks, furniture, plastic, and paper debris, scattered all over the hillside and surrounding area.

Community members present at the meeting provided concerns/comments about the continued dilapidation of the facility, lack of a safety plan surrounding the pending USFS improvement project. Adding to the issues were past event(s) which included the 2002 Hayman Forest Fire, which increased their concern about another wildland fire.

As mentioned, Mountain Communities Fire was present at the meeting. Mountain Communities provides fire and medical services to the area. They addressed their concerns with the non-regulated range use. This has allowed users to use exploding targets and/or similar explosive devices that could cause a fire to occur. They also discussed the current facilities lack of signage and no trash receptacles allowing users to properly discard trash. Currently, range users either pack out what was brought in or leave it on the ground.

On April 20, 2023, and October 24, 2023, DCSO organized/conducted two clean-up operations by partnering with nearby residents, community volunteers, USFS and Douglas County Public Works (DCPW). The clean-up operations resulted in approximately 23 tons of debris collected/removed from the site, utilizing skid steers, front end loaders, tandem and single axle dump trucks, excavators and personnel from both Public Works and the Sheriff's Office. Costs incurred does not include volunteer hours from community members and/or volunteer organizations that assisted. Costs associated with both clean-up events to Douglas County government were in excess of \$21,000.

On December 12, 2023, DCSO Command staff meet with USFS representatives and discussed the on-going safety concerns that are present at Turkey Tracks. Discussion occurred for limiting access at dusk with the installation/securing of the entrance gate on both the Teller and Douglas County side. The addition of trash containers at the ranges to facilitate a place for users to discard trash. The enactment of regulations for forestry property that would allow DCSO to criminally charge violators for trespass after hours when the facility is closed.

USFS advised that Turkey Tracks is still in the planning/public comment phase of the approval process and that the USFS is limited on certain actions/improvements of the land during this process. We were advised that getting authorization for locking the current gate and adding new regulations regarding trespassing after hours were within their authority and they would work on those issues.

Douglas County Sheriff Weekly and the Sheriff's Office are committed to providing a high level of public safety to the citizens of Douglas County and those who recreate in the Pike National Forest. Safety and security concerns were addressed with USFS supervision and the need to immediately mitigate and/or correct areas of deficiency. Recommendations again included closing of the facility at dusk to prevent usage during the night, additional signage that lists the rules of operation, range hours and authorized shooting areas. The adding of trash containers for discarding of trash/debris. Currently in its unmanaged and non-regulated status, the range will continue to have community safety and security implications until managed and/or completed. The Sheriff's Office will continue to work in partnership with the community and the USFS for solutions that enhance the safety and security of Turkey Tracks and our county.