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First name: John

Last name: Hoesly

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am the owner of Pikes Peak Ranch, a guest ranch and wedding venue located on county road 78 directly over the hill from the proposed Turkey tracks shooting range. We do not support the development of this shooting range. We already experience the bad affects of being located close to the Turkey Tracks shooting area and FR 343.

The noise constantly disturbs our guests who come to this area for peace and quiet and to enjoy nature. Shooting happens at all hours of the day including all through the night and early morning which can be extremely disturbing to the peace and quiet. There has been no mention in this proposal to address the concern of noise, such as with covered shooting areas that suppress the noise and direct it away from residents. This could have a big affect on our business which brings money and commerce into our community for all.

Safety is another huge concern for us being located so close to the shooting range. Stray bullets have the ability to reach our property. There is no supervision and no way of knowing if shooters are under the influence of drugs and alcohol. We also have experienced people straying from the range, crossing our property line and shooting on our property where guests are and know this from finding there shotgun shells leftover which is also another issue altogether with the littering. We have seen people recklessly shooting from the side of county rd 78 with no safety gear or awareness of the fact that they are on a residential road with people driving by just feet away.

Trash is a huge issue already and will continue to be in the future if the Turkey Tracks shooting range is developed. Shooters have shown time and time again that they cannot self police this. Almost every shooting area is littered with immense amounts of trash, beer cans, left over targets etc. It ruins the pristine nature that everyone should have the ability to experience without trash being left everywhere.

Closing off shooting to other areas in the Pikes Peak National Forest will have a funnel affect of sending all those shooters to the Turkey Tracks range which will elevate all the issues mentioned above and will create a massive issue with noise. There will also be no one at the range to regulate how long people are there, which will result in a few groups clogging up the whole range for hours at a time, bringing chairs, food, beer, etc. We are extremely worried about this causing spillover of shooters who can't shoot at the range and looking for other places to shoot. This is already a problem where people are shooting where they shouldn't be, close to residences and in places that pose seriously dangerous situations for all who live nearby.

We have experienced intoxicated shooters spilling over from the shooting area and shooting directly from their cars with no regard to where they are pointing their weapon. They have done this with us in eyesight which is incredibly concerning. People have shot our business signs on county rd 78 that have residences located directly behind where they are shooting. It is incredibly dangerous and irresponsible.

It seems very irresponsible to me that none of these concerns have been addressed at all. We are a local small business that bring commerce to our local economy that are at risk because of this proposal. PLEASE consider these issues as we are not the only ones with this view that are worried what will happen if this range is developed.

At the very lest, there should be hours of operation for the range that are reasonable and have someone staffed to full-time to monitor the use of the range and make sure rules are being followed. The issue of noise needs to be addressed for the surrounding community. Biggest of all the concerns is safety and this needs to be addressed somehow. Please listen to the community in this process as it has the ability to affect a lot of lives.