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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm reading the newspaper The Mountain Jackpot and saw the article on the shooting ranges with a December 28th deadline to submit comments.

My husband and me with our dogs have been hiking in the Pike National Forest for many years but recently have stopped going because of gunfire.

We've had bullets whizzing by our head hiking the trail at Emerald Valley. Young men were setting up a target with rifles on tripods when we started the hike. Upon our return trip to the trailhead, they were missing the target and that's when bullets were whizzing by our ears. We shouted, yelled, "hikers on the trail" but that didn't stop the shooting. We were not the only hikers that day. I now carry a whistle when hiking.

Another time we were hiking where Gold Camp Rd and Old Stage Rd junction and gun shots were very close by. We ran to get out of the way.

Another time we were hiking in Williams Canyon, with permission from Cave of the Winds, and when we got near the end of the canyon at Rampart Range Rd, gunmen were shooting down into the canyon.

Another time we parked at Frosty's Park to hike Mt. Almagre. The trees! Nothing left of the trees because they were shot into splinters. That's not the only place we've seen trees shot to pieces.

Hiking off Rampart Range Rd we ALWAYS hear gun fire in the distance.

We are scared to hike in Pike National Forest anymore and there are so many wonderful trails to explore. If the National Forest Service does plan to build shooting ranges, please, please keep away from trails used by hikers, bikers, and other means of transportation.