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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I just heard about a proposal to locate a shooting range near my house on FSR 704 B / C. My small community is on the east side Wilkerson Pass, just off Hwy 24 in Park County. In our community, there are 13 year round family homes. the rest of the homes are summer residents. Wilkerson Pass Estates is an s-shaped subdivision occupying a ridge and two valleys up against Stoll Mountain for a back drop.

When people are shooting in the forest, we can all hear the shots. It is amplified by Stoll Mountain. It is unnerving to our community and animals. We call each other and form a small group to go witness the shooting practice. If it seems like a harmless controlled situation then we communicate that to the rest of the community. If, however, there seems to be a dangerous situation - drinking, no back drop, children and dogs, then we call the Forest Service.

When there are automatic weapons the sound is frightening. I have personally sought out these people and talked to them about the distance which those bullets can travel. I point out the boundaries between private and public property and I tell them that those of us in our homes bring our animals inside and wait for them to stop. I also suggest they continue to enjoy their guns at a shooting range, as the rest of us do - there is a great shooting range in Park County over by Como.

When people are shooting in the public land across Highway 24 from us, the sound carries over into our community. We have covenants against discharging firearms inside our subdivision. All of us hunt and fish and we all have guns but we don't shoot inside our community. We go elsewhere.

I am really happy to see the USFS provide established areas to shoot - this is especially welcome since the shooting of objects such as incendiaries has become popular. The closest wildfire we had to our community was where you are currently proposing a shooting range. Simply hot shells caused that fire.

I encourage and welcome a public shooting range but not there. The sound of shooting carries over into our peaceful mountain community, amplified by the ridge and back drop of Stoll Mountain. Recently, the logging surrounding our community has completely disoriented the wildlife. Great herds of elk cow and calves are bundled together moving from patch to patch. We had our first lion kill in our yard this year. We have lived here for 25 years.

I want to emphasize to you that our community is an ecosystem of people and animals and one of the upsetting threats to our system is the noise of shooting - especially of automatic weapons.

Please don't put in a shooting range on FSR 704 B / C . It will be the end of our mountain community peace and will degrade our property values. The sound will make living here in the summer impossible. Please locate this kind of facility away from a subdivision.

Thank you,