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First name: Samuel

Last name: Hemphill

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Target shooting on public land should not be restricted. Regulations are already in place and those who break them should be addressed case by case. By severely restricting what land is legal to shoot on the only people who get punished are the ones who respect the land, practice safe shooting, and abide by the law. All outdoor shooters I know and shoot with clean up after themselves and follow regulations. You don't see evidence of them, or the many who conduct themselves the same way, doing this because they leave no trace and cause no damage to the environment; there's no marks to be found which is exactly what is asked of them. A mass of good citizens who follow regulations shouldn't bear the consequences of the few who don't.

Longer driving times and tension over filled up shooting areas are both consequences for restricting shooting access. Not to mention, several people avoid popular shooting areas on purpose because they feel it safer to go to an isolated area away from others where accidents are significantly less likely to happen. Access to the land for target shooting also enables people to train for hunting by giving them the ability to set up longer range targets in similar environments to what they'll be facing on their actual hunts. Training with a shotgun for small game (eg waterfowl, upland birds) is also unpractical and unsafe in areas with condensed groups of shooters. The animals you're training for require a shotgun in the first place because they're moving targets. Shooters need to be sure of a wide, open area in front of them so they can shoot moving targets and be sure that no one will be in their line of fire. This is typically only possible in an isolated area with no one nearby. The ability to legally train for long range and shotgun hunting will be limited to those who can afford regular visits to special shooting ranges with those accommodations. They are costly and, arguably, less effective than an outdoors environment that the shooter can specifically choose to meet their training needs.

Access to dispersed target shooting on public land provides several valuable benefits for those who can't pay for ranges, want to shoot in safer environments, and have specific shooting needs that can't be met in condensed areas. Most gun owners are very law abiding citizens who obey the regulations currently in place. All hunters value the land they shoot on and go out of their way to treat it right and preserve it. Don't punish these people for something they didn't do.