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Comments: In reading through public comment for this proposal of shutting down areas of PNF and developing the shooting area at Turkey Tracks, a large part of the concern for local residents in Westcreek and surrounding areas with the Turkey Tracks shooting range can be summarized into three areas:

1. SAFETY AND SPILLOVER TO SURROUNDING AREAS
2. NOISE POLLUTION
3. TRASH

While some development in the shooting range would help concentrate and manage shooters, I agree with others that some sort of enclosure or noise mitigation is a must. It's incredibly disturbing for residents of this area to listen to shooting all times of the day and into the evening hours. I have personally heard multiple shooters after dark, even at midnight firing off multiple rounds.

Not only is firing off rounds after dark in direct objection with shooting safety, it's unfortunate that it's increasingly a popular thing to do in the area which is alarming and one can only assume that alcohol or drugs are involved as well.

As others have said, a gated entrance and a person on site to open and close the shooting area would be beneficial. I also would agree that some sort of fee be imposed for shooting to fund the area and secondary impacts on local fire department, clean up etc. Just as others have noted, other public access requires a fee, OHV use, designated camping areas, hunting, fishing, firewood permits, Christmas trees etc but no fees are required for shooting. If this area is developed, how is it going to be funded by the people that will use it?

For camping use, people can use recreation.gov for reserving a camping spot. Can the shooting range have a similar set up where people reserve their shooting spot ahead of time? This would go a long way to mitigate spillover of shooters into surrounding areas if they know ahead of time that there won't be a spot for them. A lot of people drive from surrounding areas, Colorado Springs, Woodland Park and even further out to use the shooting area and there's a higher chance of spillover if they've driven from far away to shoot expecting room in the shooting area when there isn't. Please consider a reservation system with time blocks and a fee so that not only are people limited to a specific number in the range but also the forest service is able to collect some funding toward the area. Limiting the shooters to given time slots would also put a cap on noise pollution. This seems like a win all around where the forest service gets funding, shooters know ahead of time what to expect and residents in the area are exposed to less noise.

Finally, for the safety of Westcreek valley residents, I strongly encourage closing down FS 343 to shooting as many people can be irresponsible and stray bullets are a distinct possibility and a direct threat to the residents living in this area. It is also a safety risk to the people that pay OHV fees to use the area with their ATVs, motorcycles etc.

Also, I would recommend any of the trails that follow the ridges adjacent to Westcreek valley need to have shooting shut down to mitigate stray bullets. A lot of shooting happens on ridges when shooters know they should be shooting at a hill and unfortunately gun safety directives are increasingly ignored.

Please consider these suggestions and the comments of residents in the area when moving forward with this project.