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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good morning. I would like to support the management proposal to restrict target shooting from 72% of the Pike National Forest. I have lived next to the Pike National Forest for 46 years and I visit it weekly to recreate with my family. Over the years I have seen shooting in the forest become increasingly destructive and dangerous as the population has grown and the nature of the shooting crowd and their weapons have changed. On three occasions I have been in dangerous situations where someone was shooting into the forest toward me. On one occasion I heard a bullet whiz by within a few feet. There are now areas of the forest where I won't go because I feel they are too dangerous.

I have also seen the impact of illegal shooting on the forest itself. There are areas where the trees have been damaged or cut down entirely by shooters, who leave trash, shell casings and lead in large amounts.

This is a clear example where the Forest Service needs to manage to preserve the resource for the greatest number of people against a destructive special interest. I know the shooters have likely been very vocal on this but I suspect their numbers are small compared to the larger majority that want the forest cared for. Thank you.