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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good day,

I am taking time out of my day today to voice my concern and SUPPORT to CLOSE National forest land for dispersed shooting. As an outdoor recreationist, someone who loves to hike & camp in my beautiful home state, I can honestly say I am APPALLED by the state and condition of forest land in these areas! It is absolutely shameful the amount of trash and destruction that has been done and continues to be done daily. I would imagine for people who work & dedicate their time to the forest service should be just as appalled and disgusted as I am. This can not continue any longer. The current management of dispersed shooting only leads to too many widespread problems with trash, pollution, and lots of other reckless and disrespectful activity amongst the shooting community. Just visiting MANY areas in the Pike national forest lands and witnessing the pollution and destruction is more than enough evidence that the shooting community is NOT responsible enough stewards of the lands. I ask, for the sake of the non shooting community, where & what are their rights? Do we have the right to access the national forest lands as well? Do we have the right to not be exposed to dangerous & reckless shooting and bullets flying through the air while we recreate? Do we have the right not to encounter live ammunition scattered on the ground while we recreate in the forest with our children and dogs? This problem goes far beyond unsightly trash & pollution. There are SO MANY shell casings scattered on the ground in areas, now the waterways are polluted with lead. I have experienced trees that are so dangerous and compromised due to shooters blasting away at them bit by bit until they (eventually) fall over. Just about every back country sign & road sign is littered with bullet holes. Is this responsible shooting etiquette? Is this shooting etiquette we should be proud of and cater too?? At what point is enough, enough?? The fire risk is VERY real. I, like many people live with forest all around me; and I, like many others, don't want my home or anyone's home to burn down due to reckless shooting. It is clear the shooting community is not responsible enough for their privilege to forest lands. The forest land should be protected and closed to dispersed shooting, and the shooters can go to a designated and developed shooting range and practice with responsible gun and shooting etiquette there. Colorado is no longer a greatly wild place with vast amounts of open uninhabited land, that's just a fact. And due to this fact everyone can't just think about themselves anymore. It is no longer viable to allow widespread dispersed shooting just so people "don't have to drive far" or so they can feel good about shooting where they used to, (15+ years ago and 2 million less people) Let's be responsible for the land and nature that we do have left, we should try to keep our natural lands beautiful and healthy, not littered, polluted dumping grounds. Thank you