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Comments: As Executive Director of the Trails and Open Space Coalition, I am grateful to have the opportunity to comment on the shooting range proposal.

We brought this issue to our Advocacy Committee this past week. They unanimously supported the proposal banning shooting in 72% of the forest.

Our reasoning is simple. We represent active users throughout the region. Their safety and well-being are as important as the trails, parks and open spaces they use to enhance their physical and mental health. We hear from members and partners - they are afraid to use some areas in the NF where dispersed shooting is occurring. They are also disgusted by the damage to trees in popular dispersed shooting areas and trash left behind. As these are public spaces, all users recreational choices should be accommodated as much as possible but when one groups use threatens another groups safety, and when those behaviors threaten the resource - policies need to change.

We would ask that you increase buffer zones near trails where sight lines are challenging. There should also be wider buffer zones around dispersed camping areas.

We think you have an excellent model in the Northern Front Range Recreational Sports Shooting Management Project that we should try to emulate in this area. It was encouraging to hear that Douglas County is already raising money to create a shooting range in their area that follows your specifications. I'm hoping we can do the same in this county. It's not TOSC's mission but there could be other NP's and groups willing to secure funding to accomplish this.

Again, thank you for this opportunity. As more people move here and visit here - there will be more pressure on Pike NF threatening the enjoyment of users and the conservation values of the resource. TOSC is committed to balancing use with preserving the flora and fauna which make Pikes NF the amazing resource it is.