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Title:

Comments: I have been a shooter for 50 years and a firearms instructor for 31 years. I have seen several of these unofficial shooting ranges or where people just pick a spot, set up targets, and shoot. In my opinion, this is often unsafe as there may not be a proper backstop, the direction of fire is toward a road or houses that the shooter is unaware of since they don't know the area very well, or they are shooting at trees or even rocks where the ricochet is totally unpredictable. Some of the unofficial ranges I have seen have had decent backstops, but there is an amazing amount of trash left by the shooters. I support this effort to establish official ranges on USFS property to ensure the ranges are safe (good backstop, no large rocks, not in direction of houses/roads, etc) and to ensure they are not close to houses for noise reduction. Also, I assume the USFS will manage these ranges, such as occasional cleanup, removal of downed trees, etc. This will be a huge improvement for people who shoot, for people who live near some of the existing shooting areas that will be closed, and for the safety of the public and wildlife.