
File Code: 1950

Date:

Dear Interested Party:

The Pike and San Isabel National Forests Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands is seeking comments on the Integrated Management of Target Shooting on the Pike National Forest Project. The Integrated Management of Target Shooting project will address the need to provide opportunities for target shooting on National Forest System lands, identify areas unsuitable for dispersed target shooting, identify areas to be developed as shooting ranges, and establish a conditions-based adaptive management framework to manage target shooting in the future.

Target shooting, also called recreational sport shooting, has increased in popularity nationally over the past decade, and its growing popularity in Colorado has been amplified by the ongoing increase in the population size. Dispersed target shooting, where forest visitors set up targets and practice shooting in an undesignated, undeveloped location, is a legal use of National Forest System lands. However, the number of people living near the Forest and the participation in target shooting have increased dramatically in the past decade, resulting in risks to public safety, shooting-related wildfires, rising numbers of user conflicts, and resource damage.

The Pikes Peak, South Park, and South Platte Ranger Districts propose to address the needs relating to target shooting opportunities and impacts across the Pike National Forest using a three-part approach:

1. Develop at least one shooting range on each ranger district;
2. Close areas of the forest to dispersed shooting based on potential risks to public safety, wildfire, impacts to adjacent private property, resource damage, user conflicts, or enforcement access;
3. Implement these changes using a conditions-based, adaptive framework.

Details of the proposed action, including sites of potential developed shooting ranges, maps depicting areas that may be inappropriate for target shooting, and specifics relating to the adaptive management framework, are available on the project website:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57807>.

A scoping period provides those parties interested in or affected by this action an opportunity to make their concerns known and raise any substantive issues to be address in the environmental analysis. Those submitting timely, specific written comments will be eligible to file an objection during the objection period which will be provided for this project prior to a final decision, pursuant to 36 CFR 218, subparts A and B.

For more information on the proposed action, please contact Jennifer DeWoody, NEPA Planner, Pike National Forest, at 719-477-4216 or via email jennifer.dewoody@usda.gov.



How to Comment and Timeframe

To be most helpful and considered in the analysis, comments concerning this action should be submitted within 45 calendar days following publication of the notice in the newspaper of record, the *Pueblo Chieftain*. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the scoping period for this proposal. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218.25, including specific written comments as defined in 218.2 regarding the proposed project, along with supporting reasons (218.25 (a)(3)(iii)). Each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding this project must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request (218.24(b)(8)). All written comments received by the responsible official become a matter of public record (218.25(b)(2)).

Comments, including attachments, may be sent electronically by visiting the project website (above) and clicking on the “Comment/Object on Project” link. Comments may be filed via mail, express delivery, or messenger to: Target Shooting Project, c/o Beth Davis, USDA Forest Service, 5575 Cleora Road, Salida, CO 81201; Faxed to: 719-447-4233; or by hand delivery to the above address during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) if the office is open to the public pending public health considerations.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the environmental analysis process on National Forest System lands.

Sincerely,

DIANA M. TRUJILLO
Forest and Grassland Supervisor