

## Northern Front Range Sports Shooting Management Partnership

### RSS Management Project Draft Decision Package

Q&As:

#### **Is the Northern Front Range Sport Shooting Management Partnership part of this proposal/decision?**

The purpose of the Partnership is to develop a multijurisdictional strategy to provide safe, responsible and accessible recreational sport shooting opportunities while addressing conflicts near residential areas and with other recreation users across the northern Colorado Front Range. These Partnership entities are cooperating agencies on this project. As cooperating agencies, they have a formalized relationship with the Forest Service and this particular project. This formal relationship allows the ARP to request the participation of each agency early in the NEPA process and to use the environmental analyses and proposals of cooperating agencies to the extent possible.

Partnership counties are working through their respective land management planning processes to potentially identify locations for designated shooting ranges. This is separate from the Forest Service proposed action. The proposed Forest Plan direction does include a goal to cooperate with counties and CPW to identify designated shooting ranges, particularly in areas where restrictions may limit dispersed RSS opportunities. The locations of these will be within geographic areas impacted by potential restrictions and may be along main travel ways/access points to the forests. These would not be Forest Service ranges.

#### **What shooting opportunities currently exist?**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife have a great website listing ranges by region for the state.

<http://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/RangesRegion.aspx> The Pawnee National Grassland also has the Baker Draw Designated Shooting Area in Weld County, west of Ault, Colo.

#### **What's an example of a change from the previous maps that was driven by input from the Partners or the public?**

A lot of great feedback was gathered over the course of this project, including from the alternative map meetings. Some of this feedback directly impacted the development of the draft decision.

There is an area called the Octopus Area on the Clear Creek Ranger District in Gilpin County that was not originally included. This area was brought to our attention as a safety concern by the Gilpin County Commissioner who serves as a member of the partnership and was included in the draft decision as being restricted to RSS activities.

There is also an area that is the CU Mountain Research Station on the Boulder Ranger District. Someone from the Center reached out to Boulder County and brought this safety concern of a heavily occupied area to our attention to be included.

#### **How can I continue to stay involved? What can I do if I still disagree?**

Information about the project is available on the web at [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/arp/recshootingmgt](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/arp/recshootingmgt). Although comments can be received at any point before the decision is made, those who commented during the official scoping period (May 15-September 19, 2015) are the only ones with standing to object to the draft decision.

#### **How will information be shared about restrictions?**

Along with working with the Partnership to ensure everyone has consistent information, education will be a key component of implementation. Restrictions will be posted on websites, signage and social media outlets, as well as press releases out to media. Audiences will go well beyond recreational shooters, with other forest visitors

and community members being a key component. The Forest Service is working with Partnership members, including law enforcement, on an implementation plan and maps will be available to help visitors identify where restrictions are in place.

**Are any ranges being built that will provide opportunities in areas of potential restrictions?**

Yes. The Forest continues to work on the Devil's Nose Shooting Range in Clear Creek County, with construction anticipated to begin in 2019. Design plans are completed and the Forest is working with partners to identify matching funds to go along with its Colorado Parks and Wildlife grant. Boulder County has been exploring two possible sites for two shooting ranges (the Lyons Quarry and the Boulder Rifle Club) that would be accessible to the public and has applied for CPW grants. Other counties are continuing to evaluate potential locations and collaborate with partners. Information will be provided on the Partnership website as more information is known about potential sites.

**What do you mean when you say a developed shooting range?**

A specific location identified for recreational shooting, which may or may not be supervised by a range officer. Such a site may accommodate archery or rifle, pistol or shotgun shooting. Developed shooting sites are engineered to enhance public and user safety (using berms, baffles and other methods) and capture of spent lead. These sites may include restrooms, shooting benches, designated shooting lanes and distances and noise mitigation. Public developed shooting sites are open to the public (membership is not required) and may or may not have fees associated with use. Also referred to as designated shooting area.

**Once a final decision is made, how long before it is implemented?**

Most closures identified in the final decision map will not be immediately implemented. Implementation of restrictions in the signed final decision would be phased related to access to RSS opportunities. A specific timeline is unknown at this time. Areas that are already closed under other orders would remain closed if identified in the decision. More isolated areas not requiring a shooting range to be built will likely be implemented along with the first closures contingent on a range. In areas where larger closures are identified, a designated shooting range will be developed before restrictions could be enacted.