



Areas closed to Recreational Shooting

SHOOTING RESTRICTIONS

It is unlawful to discharge a firearm, air rifle, or gas gun in the "Areas Closed to Recreational Shooting" as shown on the map.

For more information regarding recreational shooting on the Pike National Forest, please contact the U.S. Forest Service at:

601 South Weber Street
 Colorado Springs, CO 80903
 719-636-1602
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/pp/>

EXEMPT from these closure areas are:

1. Any person possessing a current and valid Colorado state hunting license and who is actively involved in hunting during an open season.
2. Any person discharging a gas-operated paintball gun.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can I shoot in the National Forest?

A. Yes and no. Generally, recreational shooting is allowed on most National Forest System lands. However, there are some specific areas closed to target shooting and many rules do apply. The map on the inside of this brochure shows those areas closed to recreational shooting on the Pikes Peak Ranger District only. If you plan to shoot elsewhere on the National Forest, please check with the local Forest Service office in that area for restrictions.

Q. Where can I shoot on the Pikes Peak Ranger District?

A. See map for closure areas. You may find a suitable location on the District (outside of the restricted areas indicated on the map) that provides a good earthen backstop and is away from a road. Never shoot at a tree and always remove your target and spent casings.

Q. What are the rules and regulations regarding shooting on the National Forest?

A. Discharging a firearm is always prohibited within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area, on or across a road, near or across a body of water, in a cave, or in any manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage. More rules, regulations and guidelines are provided in this brochure. Please read them carefully.

Q. Why is shooting prohibited in the areas shown on the map?

A. These are highly used and heavily concentrated areas with many nearby roads and trails, and private land developments. Restricting shooting reduces hazards to the public and to others who use, live, or work within these areas. Much of the forest remains open to recreational shooting.

Q. Can I shoot skeet with a shotgun?

A. Yes, in areas outside the closure. The area must be open and away from trees and water. Pick up your spent shotgun shells.

Shooting on National Forest System Lands

You may find a suitable place that is not located in the restricted areas shown on the map. When you find an appropriate place to shoot, ensure your bullets are going into a good earthen backstop and that the area is completely unoccupied.

Rules to Follow

- Ensure that you are not shooting within the restricted areas shown on the shooting closure map.
- Do not discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, occupied areas or into or within a cave.
- Never shoot from or across a traveled route (this includes any type of road or trail located on the forest).
- Never shoot at trees, don't place targets on trees.
- It is unlawful to shoot across a body of water, or in any manner or place where individuals or property are exposed to injury or damage.
- Shoot only at your intended target ensuring that your bullets are going into a good earthen backstop. Do not shoot into solid rock.
- Use only paper or biodegradable targets. Collect all your casings and trash before you leave the area. Do not shoot glass or metal.
- It is unsafe to shoot after dark.
- Never shoot from a motor vehicle.
- Always remember alcohol and firearms DO NOT mix!
- Be aware and know what is public property versus private property. Never shoot across a canyon or down into a drainage.
- Please respect the land and other users of the forest.

Exceptions to Shooting in the Restricted Areas

If you are lawfully hunting (meaning you are actively hunting an animal during an open season and you have a valid hunting license) then you may discharge a firearm within the restricted areas shown on the map, providing you do so in a safe manner. Follow the Division of Wildlife rules and regulations that apply when hunting. Also exempt from the restricted areas are any persons discharging a gas-operated paintball gun. Please shoot safely and responsibly!

Failure to follow these rules and regulations or shooting in an unsafe manner, may be punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both.

Be a Safe and Responsible Shooter

1. Never shoot across roads, trails, waterways, or into caves. Know the area, is it open to shooting and is it safe?
2. Only shoot directly into a solid earthen backstop. Know what lies between you and your target, and beyond.
3. Never shoot at trees. Never place targets on trees. Never shoot at rocks or glass and don't damage signs or other property.
4. Shoot your shotgun safely and responsibly. Never shoot where shotgun pellets will hit trees or endanger other people.
5. Protect your image and respect your environment. Remove your targets, spent casings and shotgun shells.

KEEP IT SAFE

KEEP IT CLEAN

KEEP IT LEGAL



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United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

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Recreational Target Shooting

Guidelines for the Pikes Peak Ranger District Pike National Forest



Pike & San Isabel National Forests
Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands