

**1997 Revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan
Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests
and
Pawnee National Grassland**

June 2019

Amendment No. 13

Forest Plan: Arapaho and Roosevelt Forest-wide map of areas unsuitable for recreational sport shooting and addition of desired condition, goal, and two guidelines.

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New Plan Direction

Desired Condition 201

Goal 202

Guideline 203

Guideline 204

Description:

The final decision notice for the Recreational Sport Shooting Management Project on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests contained language regarding this Forest Plan Amendment:

The following plan components will be added to the Forest Plan (Chapter 1 Forestwide Direction, Section 2 Operational Goals, Standards, and Guidelines, Part 4 Managing for Recreational Users; Dispersed Recreation; page 35 of the 1997 Forest Plan, as amended):

Opportunities

Desired Condition (DC) There are a wide variety of recreation opportunities that are appropriate for the setting and other resource values. Conflict between users is minimized.

Goal (GO) Provide for recreational sport shooting opportunities across the ARNF in a manner that protects public health and safety.

Management

Guideline (GL) Areas should be identified as unsuitable for recreational sport shooting if they meet any of the following:

- *Close proximity of the area to residential development or high recreation use areas;*
- *Topography or terrain that does not provide for safe and effective backstops; or*
- *Other threats to public health and safety.*

Guideline (GL) Closures of unsuitable areas should be easy for the public to understand and enforceable.

Map

This decision implements a modified version of the map analyzed as the Local Factors alternative in the EA. This alternative was developed in conjunction with the Front Range Partnership. It uses three factors to determine which lands are unsuitable for recreational sport shooting. Those factors are residential housing density, high use recreation areas on both NFS and other public lands, and existing conflicts between recreational sport shooting and other uses on NFS and other public lands. The Local Factors alternative was further refined using public input during the fall and winter of 2017. This map identifies those lands that are unsuitable for recreational sport shooting.

Areas identified as unsuitable for recreational sport shooting would be closed to shooting via a forest order once shooting opportunities at developed shooting ranges became available to the public. Areas currently closed to shooting by forest order will remain closed, regardless of when new developed shooting ranges become available. Boulder, Clear Creek, and Gilpin Counties have assumed the responsibility for identifying locations and providing developed shooting ranges to provide recreational sport shooting opportunities for the public prior to the closure of unsuitable areas on NFS lands. Because most of the NFS lands in Larimer County and Grand County remain open and available for recreational sport shooting there is not a requirement for a developed range to be built in these areas prior to closure of unsuitable areas. Providing opportunities for recreational sport shooting in conjunction with closing unsuitable areas of the ARNF is an important balance in this decision. For that reason, should any of the developed shooting ranges provided by the Boulder, Clear Creek, and Gilpin Counties, or the Forest Service range at Devil's Nose in conjunction with this decision become no longer available to the public for use, the following will occur. For a period of 6 months to 3 years following closure of the range, the forest supervisor will have the discretion to rescind the closures of unsuitable areas that were associated with that shooting range. If the shooting range is still closed after 3 years, then the forest supervisor must rescind the closures associated with that shooting range. Site-specific closures implemented prior to this decision would not be rescinded. Any new developed shooting ranges would be subject to applicable land use and environmental planning laws.

/s/Monte Williams

Forest Supervisor

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and
Pawnee National Grassland

June 13, 2019

Date