

Request for Expressed Interest (RFEI)

Devils Nose Target Range

Clear Creek Ranger District, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland



Figure 1. Devils Nose Target Range with a view of the three galleries, parking area and restroom.



Forest Service

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland

Clear Creek Ranger District

September 2026

Contents

Introduction	1
Background	1
Area Description.....	1
Devils Nose Target Range	2
Minimum Operating Season and Hours of Use.....	3
Use and Fees.....	3
Opportunity	3
Minimum Operation Standards and Specifications.....	3
Forest Program and Policies	4
Authorities.....	4
Restrictions.....	4
RFEI Submissions	5
Submission Format	5
Submission Criteria.....	5
DUE DATE	5
Questions.....	6
Disclaimer	6

Introduction

Expanding access to the outdoors by providing recreational services and facilities is a key part of the Forest Service's mission. To fulfill this responsibility, the agency relies upon volunteer, organizational, and commercial partners to help expand the scope of opportunities for the visiting public. The Forest Service would like to offer a unique opportunity for a partner to assist in the delivery of services at the Devils Nose Target Range.

Background

Due to the increasing popularity of recreation sport shooting, paired with the rapid population growth of Colorado's Front Range, the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and sustainable recreation sport shooting management plan.

To address the increased dispersed sport shooting on the National Forest, the Forest Service worked in collaboration with the Northern Front Range Recreational Sport Shooting Management Partnership to develop a landscape-level, multi-jurisdictional 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.

The Devils Nose Target Range is a new United States Department of Agriculture government owned target range and day use facility. The facility first opened in July 2025 and was closed at the end of November for the season. The Forest managed the site throughout this time and would like to offer the opportunity for a partner to take over operations beginning May 2027.

The purpose of this Request for Expressed Interest (RFEI) is to determine:

- Whether competitive interest exists for the proposed services.

Submissions received from this request may inform the Forest on operators interested in managing the site or demonstrate a need to issue a prospectus to solicit applications to offer services at the target range in the future. Submissions may also help shape the prospectus and/or provide insight into future management.

Area Description

The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland is located in north central Colorado. The forests and grassland encompass 1.5 million acres and receive approximately 7.5 million visitors annually, making it a recreation destination for people in the nation. Its proximity to the Denver metropolitan area and Colorado Front Range cities makes this Forest an excellent option for travelers and visitors from all over the world and to more than 4 million people that live adjacent to its boundaries.

The Forest is easily accessed from Interstates 25 and 70 as well as numerous state highways and county roads that connect the forest to its local communities. The traditional tourist season spans from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. Within that timeframe, the heaviest use tends to occur during July and August. Although this is typically peak season, significant use occurs outside this time as well.

Along the I-70 corridor of Clear Creek County in the town of Idaho Springs, sits the Clear Creek Ranger District Office. The district manages approximately 200,000 acres in three different counties and will be the main point of contact for the Devils Nose Target Range.

Devils Nose Target Range

The Devils Nose Target Range is located approximately 15 miles southwest of Idaho Springs, Colorado on Forest Road 794.1 in T4S, R73W, Section 32. The Forest Road is accessed via State Highway 103, either from Evergreen or Idaho Springs, Colorado and in close proximity to the Mount Blue Sky Recreation Area and State Highway 5. The approximate elevation is 11,000 feet.

See Appendix 1 and 2 for a detailed map and facility layout.

The Devils Nose Target Range is designed for target shooting at stationary targets with rifles (including muzzleloaders), pistols, and shotguns. Shooting at moving airborne targets is not allowed.

The amenities listed below may be updated and/or modified for the final prospectus.

Devils Nose Target Range meets the requirements of The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The site is approximately three acres in size and contains the following improvements:

- A signed and gated access road
- Approximately 2000 lineal feet of graveled access road into the area
- Aggregate parking area for approximately 20 vehicles with concrete wheel stops
- Double vault CXT toilet
- Two-panel information kiosk
- Compacted crushed aggregate trails designed in accordance with Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines
- Three shooting galleries separated by vertical concrete walls, 25, 50-75 and 100-yard galleries
 - 25-yard (pistol range) gallery
 - Eight standing shooting benches
 - 50–75-yard gallery and 100-yard gallery
 - Eight sitting shooting benches for each lane per gallery (16 total)
 - Bystander benches at each gallery
 - Shade structures with sound abatement for firing line at each gallery
 - Target line for each shooting bench (24 total lanes)

- Paper targets are allowed

The site is designed for interior drainage to control and contain lead for monitoring. No clay targets will be allowed within the target range. The site does not have utilities such as electric, water, or sewer. Camping, overnight use, and activities other than recreational sport shooting at the site are prohibited. A primitive host site may be available if requested by the operator.

Minimum Operating Season and Hours of Use

The target range shall generally be open to the public from mid-May to mid-November (weather dependent). Shoulder seasons may be considered if weather conditions allow.

Hours of operation to be expected for the site are seven days a week, sunrise to sunset. Specific hours to be determined upon negotiation between the holder and the Forest Service. A range master or similar staff should be considered during peak hours of operations to ensure safe operation and maintenance of the facility.

Events and/or training may be authorized if approved by the Forest.

Use and Fees

Since this is a new range the number of users has not been determined. It is anticipated the usage will vary depending on the time of year and weather; however weekend use is predicted to be very high. The target range can accommodate 20 vehicles, one of which is accessible parking.

The Forest Service reserves the right to regulate the adequacy, type, and price of services provided to the public and to require that these services conform to satisfactory standards. The holder may be required to furnish a schedule of prices for sales and services authorized by the permit. Such prices and services may be regulated by the Forest Service, provided that the holder shall not be required to charge prices significantly differently from those charged by comparable or competing businesses.

There may be opportunities for a reservation system, annual pass program, and/or the opportunity to provide additional revenue-producing sales and services (i.e., necessities, convenience items, paper targets, ammunition, events, etc.).

Opportunity

The Forest is inviting public and private entities to submit interest in the operation and maintenance of the Devils Nose Target Range.

Minimum Operation Standards and Specifications

The Forest Service is committed to providing a safe environment for firearm enthusiasts to recreate on National Forest System lands. For this reason, any individual or entity interested in submitting proposals for the operation and maintenance of the Devils Nose Target Range must abide with chapter 70 of the Forest Service Handbook which focuses on the use, authorization, policy, environmental stewardship, operation and safety measures, and the application requirements needed to manage a Target Range on National Forest System lands (See section 71 to 71.9b). This information can be found at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/regulations-policies/handbook/270914-70-target-ranges-and-other-outdoor-recreation>.

In addition, this chapter contains multiple references for environmental practices and laws that will be regulated as part of this permit moving forward.

In addition, as outlined in various sections of chapter 70 referenced above, the Forest and the operator will comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) [Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges](#). The Operator will prepare and periodically update a lead monitoring and clean-up plan consistent with the EPA BMPs for approval by the Forest Service.

The Environmental Stewardship Plan is specific to the environmental conditions and shooting activities conducted at the Devils Nose Target Range. The purpose of the Environmental Stewardship Plan is to minimize the potential for adverse environmental effects of shooting through proactive management.

The Forest highly encourages interested parties to read through the information carefully and consider all aspects before submitting a response to this request and potential future proposals.

Forest Program and Policies

Authorities

The Forest Service works with a variety of partners through agreements and permits. While agreements and permits have very different approaches, they can both ultimately result in a partnership between the Forest Service and other entities to provide opportunities and services for the public. The actual mechanism used to formalize the expectations and terms of the partnership will vary depending on the content and context of the proposal. A permit is often necessary to cover the use and occupancy of a Forest Service facility and lands. It may be determined that a permit and agreement are necessary, which is not uncommon.

For more information regarding an agreement with the Forest Service, please visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/partnerships>. For information regarding special use permits please visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/lands-minerals-geology/special-uses>.

Restrictions

While this is open to many opportunities, there are some restrictions.

Other restrictions include but are not limited to gambling, adult entertainment, livestock use, federally illegal drugs, and associated activities. For a full understanding of restrictions please review [US Code of Federal Regulations, US 36 § 251](#).

Forest Orders

Forest Orders may close or restrict the use of an area on the forest for safety reasons or to protect forest resources. Current Forest Orders are available on the [forest webpage](#).

Orders applicable to the Devils Nose Target Range are listed below.

[The Devils Nose Occupancy and Use Restrictions](#) forest order can be found here (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/arp/alerts/area-closure-surrounding-devils-nose-target-range>) along with the attached [map](#).

[Alcohol/Target Shooting Restrictions](https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/arp/alerts/alcohol-target-shooting-restrictions), forest order can be found here <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/arp/alerts/alcohol-target-shooting-restrictions> along with the attached [map](#). Please note that while this order allows for multiple target types (i.e., metallic targets, clay pigeons, etc.) these target types will **NOT** be allowed at the Devils Nose Target Range and only paper targets will be authorized.

RFEI Submissions

Submission Format

The Forest Service asks interested parties to provide notice of their interest regarding this opportunity. Please submit expressions of interest using the form attached as Appendix 3. All supporting documents must be in a letter-size (8.5" X 11") format using 10, 11, or 12-point font for all text with page margins of 1" on all sides.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in electronic form to the following email: SM.FS.devilsnose@usda.gov. If you are unable to email your response, you may mail your form to the address listed below. Forms must be postmarked by October 16, 2026.

Clear Creek Ranger District
Attention: Max Forgensi
PO Box 3307
Idaho Springs, CO 80452

The electronic copy must be in a Microsoft Office program or a PDF file that allows for copying and pasting of text. Any page with proprietary or confidential information must be noted with a disclaimer, however respondents should be aware that submissions are broadly subject to public disclosure pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 USC § 552).

Submission Criteria

Please provide the following in your expression of interest:

1. The Devils Nose Target Range Expressions of Interest Form (attached as Appendix 3). This form will instruct you to include responses to the following:
 - a. Your name, company, or organization, and contact information (phone, mailing address, email address)
 - b. Ability to meet FSH 2709.14 Chapter 71, including safe and responsible shooting practices
 - c. Background and Technical Experience
 - d. Tread Lightly Shooting Measures
 - e. Ability to offer educational safety and training opportunities
 - f. Financial capability

DUE DATE: Submissions must be received by close of business **October 16, 2026.**

Questions

Interested respondents may submit questions regarding this Request for Expressed Interest by email to:

sm.fs.devilsnose@usda.gov.

Questions can be submitted until close of business on **October 9, 2026**. All questions and answers will be posted publicly on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests website.

Disclaimer

This document is not intended as a formal offering for the award of any legal authorization. Submissions will only be used to gauge public desire and/or need of the current infrastructure.

Participants should not assume they will receive any preference in connection with any future solicitation should they choose to submit materials in response to this Request. The Forest Service reserves the right, at its sole discretion to withdraw or discontinue the Request in whole or in part; use the ideas or materials submitted in response to this RFEI in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the Forest Service, including, but not limited to, the undertaking of the prescribed work in a manner other than that which is set forth herein. The Forest Service likewise reserves the right, at any time, to change any components, concepts or approaches of the Request. All costs associated with responding to the Request are the sole responsibility of the respondent and any such costs shall not be reimbursed by the Forest Service. The Forest Service will not return materials submitted in connection with this Request. All materials submitted in response to this Request shall become the property of Forest Service.

The Forest Service assumes no liability for the accuracy of the information provided in this Request for Expressed Interest.