

Frequently Asked Questions

Union County Target Range Project

Updated October 30, 2018

1. How will you measure the impact of noise from the target range?

Noise impacts are an important focus of the Environmental Assessment being conducted by the USDA Forest Service. A “Shooting Range Noise Acoustical Analysis” report was developed to better understand the predicted firearms noise. The intent of the report is to predict sound levels that may be experienced in surrounding areas due to gunfire that would occur during typical use of the range. This study uses well-referenced and industry standard scientific modeling to predict sound levels based on features such as firearm types, terrain, distance, and the direction and design of the range. This analysis will be used to further examine areas identified as having potential noise impacts that could possibly create a state of annoyance for a typical listener. Further studies will include live-fire acoustical analysis. The date and time of the live-fire acoustical analysis will be provided to all who comment on the project with their contact information, and will also be posted on the project webpage. The acoustical analysis is available for public viewing on the project page under Project Documents - Supporting. The project webpage is: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54559>.

2. Why is the Forest Service saying this project is along a scenic byway?

The project location is along the Highway 180 section of the Russell-Brasstown National Scenic Byway. The National Scenic Byways Program is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. The program is a grass-roots collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve and enhance selected roads throughout the United States. The U.S. Secretary of Transportation recognizes certain roads as National Scenic Byways based on one or more archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities. For more information and a map of the byway, visit the Federal Highway Administration website at <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/byways/byways/13739/maps>. The Forest Service maintains a corridor management plan for the byway, which is available for public viewing on the project page under Project Documents – Supporting. The project webpage is <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54559>.

3. Is Union County purchasing the land from the Forest Service for this target range?

No. The Forest Service has no authority to sell national forest system lands in this way. Union County has applied for a special use permit to use national forest system lands for this purpose. Their special use permit application is available for public viewing on the project page under Project Documents – Supporting. The project webpage is <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54559>.

4. Would the target range be open at night? Would there be lighting at night?

There will be no night operations of the target range.

5. What about increased traffic?

Predicted traffic patterns related to the use of the proposed target range will be looked at carefully as part of the environmental analysis and any necessary highway signage or engineering design would be required as part of a permit.

6. How do I submit official comments?

Please submit electronic comment at the project webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54559>. Written comments may also be submitted by mail to: Andrew L. Baker, District Ranger, ATTN: Nelson Gonzalez-Süllow and/or Jerome Bennett, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, 1755 Cleveland Highway, Gainesville, GA 30501, or by fax: 770-297-3011. It is your responsibility to ensure that your comments are received in a timely manner. While comments will be accepted any time during the scoping process, to establish standing for objection eligibility, scoping comments must be received by November 13, 2018. Comments sent to another location or entity cannot be considered official comments for legal standing, and may not be given full consideration.

7. How can I subscribe to the mailing list for this project?

All those who respond with comments will automatically be added to the project mailing list, and will receive email updates on the project.

8. Are the comments public?

Yes. Comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection.

9. Can I read the comments that others have submitted?

Yes. Visit the project webpage and look to the right-side of the page for Public Comment Reading Room. The project webpage is <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54559>.

10. Can I submit comments anonymously?

Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. However, comments posted after the close of the designated comment period may not be given full consideration. Anonymous comments and comments submitted after the close of the final designated comment period will not provide the commenter standing for administrative review. Only those who respond to this request for comments will remain on the mailing list for this project.

11. How do I subscribe to email updates about other projects on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests?

You can self-subscribe to receive automatic [email updates](#) from the Forest project categories you choose at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFS/subscriber/new>. You may unsubscribe at any time.