

Updated Report
RESPONSE TO 30- DAY COMMENTS
Union County Target Range EA
Blue Ridge Ranger District, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests
Public Comments
Comments received during 30-day comment period
(05/15/2018 to 06/14/2018).

#	Author	Concern / Issues	Response
1	Alexander, Robert	General comment or position statement.	Thank you for your comment.
2	Reilly, Karen	Noise, and Safety.	Thank you for your comments. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. As advised by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) guidelines, the Forest Service used a local consultant recommended by Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Resources Division to model present sound levels at the proposed target range location. The Forest Service also consulted with County officials to determine if there were any Union County noise ordinances. None were identified. Two live fire tests were also conducted as requested by comments from the public. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. Please note reference in DN/FONSI to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%.
3	Barsanti, Jeanne	Suggest new alternatives, user conflicts	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Alternatives analyzed are summarized in the Environmental Assessment. The Environmental Assessment was prepared in response to a Special Use Permit application from Union County. A location outside of Union County would not be within the scope of this project. The County would not be able to expend County funds outside of Union County. This record discloses the consideration of other potential sites for the proposed target range. (section 2.2 of the EA., page 11 –Alternatives Not Considered in Detail) and documents the rationale for determining them unsuitable. The Forest Service did consider a land exchange during the Special Use screening process, but it was not considered a viable alternative. Any proposed activity within the "area for future expansion" identified on the conceptual site plan that is outside of activities assessed in the EA could warrant additional analysis. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).
4	Beck, Laurie	Hiking, backpacking, and safety.	Thank you for your comments. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit.
5	Berenthal, Steve	User conflicts.	Thank you for your comment. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. The range would allow for public use of the facility, and would be operated and maintained by the Union County Gun Club.
6	Bevilaqua, JP	Noise, hiking and backpacking.	Thank you for your comments. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. The analysis summary notes that predicted sound levels are generally <55dBA (annoyance not expected). Please note in FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).

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7	Bill, Mary	Noise, Safety, Reclamation, clean-up, bonding.	Thank you for your comments. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit.
8	Brown, Max	Hiking, backpacking, Proposed action, decision.	Thank you for your comments. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).
9	Chambers, Henry	Proposed action, user conflicts, water resources, timber resources, and wildlife.	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. This Environmental Assessment was prepared in response to a Special Use Permit application from Union County. (Purpose and Need, Sect 1.3 pg. 3 of the EA) A location outside of Union County would not be within the scope of this project. The County would not be able to expend County funds outside of Union County. A Forest Service approved Environmental Stewardship Plan and engineered site design that meets all required BMPs are required to be in place prior to implementation. (Purpose and Need, Sect 1.3 pg. 3 of the EA). If, upon review of the engineered site design, during construction, or as a result of monitoring, the effects of activities fall outside of those assessed within the EA, additional analyses could be warranted. Compliance with law, policy and regulation is assured through this process. A Sediment and Erosion Control Plan will need to be approved by the USDA-Forest Service prior to construction, this is a requirement that will be included in the Environmental Stewardship Plan.
10	Crowder, Deborah	Wilderness, roadless character, noise, Hiking, backpacking.	Thank you for your comments. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. Please note reference in DN/FONSI to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).

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11	Deitchman, Scott	Hiking, backpacking, safety, noise and proposed action.	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Shooting range facilities are consistent with Forest Service policy (FSM 2335.4). Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Any proposed activity within the "area for future expansion" identified on the conceptual site plan that is outside of activities assessed in the EA could warrant additional analysis. Under Alternative 1: No Action, the Forest Service would not establish a target range in Union County and the Forest Plan for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests would continue to guide management of the project area (see Section 2.1.1, Chapter 2 of EA). Under Alternative 1, there would be no designated facility in Union County to provide the public with the opportunity for recreational shooting. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).</p>
12	Dement, Jay	General comment or position statement, noise, hiking, backpacking, suggest new alternatives, use conflicts and public safety.	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. Please note reference in DN/FONSI to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. The live fire test was outside the scope of the project. Notification was given to the best of the US Forest Service's ability. Under Alternative 1: No Action, the Forest Service would not establish a target range in Union County and the Forest Plan for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests would continue to guide management of the project area (see Section 2.1.1, Chapter 2 of EA). Under Alternative 1, there would be no designated facility in Union County to provide the public with the opportunity for recreational shooting. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).</p>

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13	Derby, Kim	Safety, noise, hiking and backpacking, Wilderness, roadless character.	Thank you for your comments. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. Please note reference in FONSI to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. There will be no significant effects on unique characteristics of the area, because there are no park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wilderness, wilderness study areas, inventoried roadless area, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas in the project area, nor will it violate local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (Chapter 3, Environmental Consequences, pages 13-45). The proposed site will not occur within these congressionally designated areas. Design criteria will mitigate any noise impacts to wilderness character to the Mark Trail and Brasstown Wilderness Areas (section 2.1.4 and section 3.5.1 of the EA, section 3.1 of the DN). Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. This Environmental Assessment will be completed in accordance with US Forest Service standard procedures and associated handbooks/manuals, and is consistent with applicable laws and regulations. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).
14	Fredericks, Donna	General comment or position statement.	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan.
15	Dobbins, Patty	Noise, safety, wildlife and proposed action.	Thank you for your comments. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. Please note reference in DN/FONSI to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Shooting range facilities are consistent with Forest Service policy (FSM 2335.4). Under Alternative 1: No Action, the Forest Service would not establish a target range in Union County and the Forest Plan for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests would continue to guide management of the project area (see Section 2.1.1, Chapter 2 of EA). Under Alternative 1, there would be no designated facility in Union County to provide the public with the opportunity for recreational shooting.
16	Dunkle, Marie	Hiking, backpacking, user conflicts, noise, purpose and need, suggest a new alternatives, economic and social actions.	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Shooting range facilities are consistent with Forest Service policy (FSM 2335.4). Alternatives analyzed are summarized in the Environmental Assessment. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. Any proposed activity within the "area for future expansion" identified on the conceptual site plan that is outside of activities assessed in the EA could warrant additional analysis. Under Alternative 1: No Action, the Forest Service would not establish a target range in Union County and the Forest Plan for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests would continue to guide management of the project area (see Section 2.1.1, Chapter 2 of EA). Under Alternative 1, there would be no designated facility in Union County to provide the public with the opportunity for recreational shooting. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).

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17	Durrett, Brent	Noise, transportation analysis, hiking, backpacking, wilderness, and roadless character.	Thank you for your comments. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. There will be no significant effects on unique characteristics of the area, because there are no park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wilderness, wilderness study areas, inventoried roadless area, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas in the project area, nor will it violate local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (Chapter 3, Environmental Consequences, pages 13-45). The proposed site will not occur within these congressionally designated areas. Design criteria will mitigate any noise impacts to wilderness character to the Mark Trail and Brasstown Wilderness Areas (section 2.1.4 and section 3.5.1 of the EA, section 3.1 of the DN). Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. This Environmental Assessment will be completed in accordance with US Forest Service standard procedures and associated handbooks/manuals, and is consistent with applicable laws and regulations. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).
18	Easton, Dan	Noise, transportation analysis, scenery, visual resources, soils management, economic and social actions, and user conflicts.	Thank you for your comments. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. In order to address the impacts to the scenery from the "linear" features of the backstops and berms, the backstops and berms should be developed using "undulating" berm edges with clustered evergreen tree planting at the top of the berms. Clarify in the decision document that a permit for the use and operation of the target range will require that these mitigation measures for scenery management be incorporated into the engineered design for the range. A Sediment and Erosion Control Plan will need to be approved by the USDA-Forest Service prior to construction, this is a requirement that will be included in the Environmental Stewardship Plan. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. Other issues are addressed in the Environmental Assessment where appropriate.
19	Fierman, Dan	Safety, hiking, backpacking, spiritual values, and solitude.	Thank you for your comments. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. There will be no significant effects on unique characteristics of the area, because there are no park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wilderness, wilderness study areas, inventoried roadless area, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas in the project area, nor will it violate local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (Chapter 3, Environmental Consequences, pages 13-45). The proposed site will not occur within these congressionally designated areas. Design criteria will mitigate any noise impacts to wilderness character to the Mark Trail and Brasstown Wilderness Areas (section 2.1.4 and section 3.5.1 of the EA, section 3.1 of the DN). Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).
20	Fierman, Lisa	General comment or position statement.	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Shooting range facilities are consistent with Forest Service policy (FSM 2335.4)..

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21	Fussell, Fred	Proposed action, decision.	Thank you for your comment. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Shooting range facilities are consistent with Forest Service policy (FSM 2335.4)..
22	Gillon, David	General comment or position statement.	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Shooting range facilities are consistent with Forest Service policy (FSM 2335.4)..
23	Goldberg, James	General comment or position statement. Proposed action, decision	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Shooting range facilities are consistent with Forest Service policy (FSM 2335.4).
24	Govus, David	Purpose and need, soil management, noise, recreation in wilderness, roadless, hiking, backpacking, and recreation management.	Thank you for your comments. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. There will be no significant effects on unique characteristics of the area, because there are no park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wilderness, wilderness study areas, inventoried roadless area, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas in the project area, nor will it violate local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (Chapter 3, Environmental Consequences, pages 13-45). The proposed site will not occur within these congressionally designated areas. Design criteria will mitigate any noise impacts to wilderness character to the Mark Trail and Brasstown Wilderness Areas (section 2.1.4 and section 3.5.1 of the EA, section 3.1 of the DN) The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Shooting range facilities are consistent with Forest Service policy (FSM 2335.4). Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. A Sediment and Erosion Control Plan will need to be approved by the USDA-Forest Service prior to construction, this is a requirement that will be included in the Environmental Stewardship Plan. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. This Environmental Assessment will be completed in accordance with US Forest Service standard procedures and associated handbooks/manuals, and is consistent with applicable laws and regulations. "The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987)." The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).
25	Hammerl, Louise	Proposed action, decision, user conflicts, suggest new alternatives.	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Shooting range facilities are consistent with Forest Service policy (FSM 2335.4). The Environmental Assessment was prepared in response to a Special Use Permit application from Union County. A location outside of Union County would not be within the scope of this project. The County would not be able to expend County funds outside of Union County. This record discloses the consideration of other potential sites for the proposed target range. (section 2.2 of the EA., page 11 –Alternatives Not Considered in Detail) and documents the rationale for determining them unsuitable. The Forest Service did consider a land exchange during the Special Use screening process, but it was not considered a viable alternative. Any proposed activity within the "area for future expansion" identified on the conceptual site plan that is outside of activities assessed in the EA could warrant additional analysis. Under Alternative 1: No Action, the Forest Service would not establish a target range in Union County and the Forest Plan for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests would continue to guide management of the project area (see Section 2.1.1, Chapter 2 of EA). Under Alternative 1, there would be no designated facility in Union County to provide the public with the opportunity for recreational shooting.

#	Author	Concern / Issues	Response
26	Harmon, Sue	Hiking, backpacking, safety, noise, wilderness and roadless character.	<p>Thank you for your comments. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. There will be no significant effects on unique characteristics of the area, because there are no park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wilderness, wilderness study areas, inventoried roadless area, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas in the project area, nor will it violate local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (Chapter 3, Environmental Consequences, pages 13-45). The proposed site will not occur within these congressionally designated areas. Design criteria will mitigate any noise impacts to wilderness character to the Mark Trail and Brasstown Wilderness Areas (section 2.1.4 and section 3.5.1 of the EA, section 3.1 of the DN). This Environmental Assessment will be completed in accordance with US Forest Service standard procedures and associated handbooks/manuals, and is consistent with applicable laws and regulations. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).</p>
27	Harvey, Alex	Hiking, backpacking, safety, noise, user conflicts, reclamation, clean-up and bonding.	<p>Thank you for your comments. Please note in FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).</p>
28	Henige, Fred	General comment or position statement.	<p>Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Shooting range facilities are consistent with Forest Service policy (FSM 2335.4).</p>

#	Author	Concern / Issues	Response
29	Hodges, Phillip	Safety, noise, effects analysis, and proposed action.	Thank you for your comments. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. See Section 8, Intensity , in FONSI for effects analysis response. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987). Any proposed activity within the "area for future expansion" identified on the conceptual site plan that is outside of activities assessed in the EA could warrant additional analysis. Under Alternative 1: No Action, the Forest Service would not establish a target range in Union County and the Forest Plan for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests would continue to guide management of the project area (see Section 2.1.1, Chapter 2 of EA). Under Alternative 1, there would be no designated facility in Union County to provide the public with the opportunity for recreational shooting.
30	Holmgren, Robert	Noise. General comment or position statement.	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Shooting range facilities are consistent with Forest Service policy (FSM 2335.4). The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. The live fire test was outside the scope of the project. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment.
31	Hopgood, Annette	General comment or position statement.	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Shooting range facilities are consistent with Forest Service policy (FSM 2335.4). The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain.

#	Author	Concern / Issues	Response
32	Hunter, Patrick	Laws, Policies, purpose and need, suggest new alternatives, noise, reclamation, clean-up, bonding and soils management, wilderness and roadless character, scenery.	<p>Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. This Environmental Assessment will be completed in accordance with US Forest Service standard procedures and associated handbooks/manuals, and is consistent with applicable laws and regulations. There will be no significant effects on unique characteristics of the area, because there are no park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wilderness, wilderness study areas, inventoried roadless area, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas in the project area, nor will it violate local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (Chapter 3, Environmental Consequences, pages 13-45). The proposed site will not occur within these congressionally designated areas. Design criteria will mitigate any noise impacts to wilderness character to the Mark Trail and Brasstown Wilderness Areas (section 2.1.4 and section 3.5.1 of the EA, section 3.1 of the DN. In order to address the impacts to the scenery from the "linear" features of the backstops and berms, the backstops and berms should be developed using "undulating" berm edges with clustered evergreen tree planting at the top of the berms. Clarify in the decision document that a permit for the use and operation of the target range will require that these mitigation measures for scenery management be incorporated into the engineered design for the range. Any proposed activity within the "area for future expansion" identified on the conceptual site plan that is outside of activities assessed in the EA could warrant additional analysis. Under Alternative 1: No Action, the Forest Service would not establish a target range in Union County and the Forest Plan for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests would continue to guide management of the project area (see Section 2.1.1, Chapter 2 of EA). Under Alternative 1, there would be no designated facility in Union County to provide the public with the opportunity for recreational shooting. An Environmental Stewardship Plan, Safety Plan and Operating Plan are not required until a site has been selected, but are required prior to a Special Use authorization. All material used in preparation of the EA has been incorporated by reference (see EA Chapter 4: References Cited) and are publicly disclosed. Based upon 36 CFR 251, this use meets the definition of public interest. In addition, the Special Use Permit terms and conditions and Operating Plan will require Union County to meet the needs of the public in compliance with Title VI and other applicable laws. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).</p>
33	Irene, Anon	Noise and Safety.	<p>Thank you for your comments. Shooting range facilities are consistent with Forest Service policy (FSM 2335.4). The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment.</p>
34	Payne, Jane T.	General comment or position statement, and safety.	<p>Thank you for your comments. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. Target ranges are consistent with Forest Service policy (USDA-Forest Service, 2018) which allows for the authorization of target ranges on the National Forest when the use is consistent with Forest Plan standards and guidelines and when the authorization would enhance forest management (by improving public safety, providing recreational opportunities or consolidating dispersed target range). Policy also directs the forest to enter into agreements with state governments, local governments or private organizations to provide for cost-sharing for target range design, construction, operation and maintenance, with title to the target range improvements remaining with the government. The Forest Service must approve the an ESP prior to issuance of the permit.</p>

#	Author	Concern / Issues	Response
35	Jude, Roderick	Proposed action, hiking, backpacking, wilderness and roadless character.	Thank you for your comments. Target ranges are consistent with Forest Service policy (USDA-Forest Service, 2018) which allows for the authorization of target ranges on the National Forest when the use is consistent with Forest Plan standards and guidelines and when the authorization would enhance forest management (by improving public safety, providing recreational opportunities or consolidating dispersed target range). Policy also directs the forest to enter into agreements with state governments, local governments or private organizations to provide for cost-sharing for target range design, construction, operation and maintenance, with title to the target range improvements remaining with the government. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. There will be no significant effects on unique characteristics of the area, because there are no park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wilderness, wilderness study areas, inventoried roadless area, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas in the project area, nor will it violate local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (Chapter 3, Environmental Consequences, pages 13-45). The proposed site will not occur within these congressionally designated areas. Design criteria will mitigate any noise impacts to wilderness character to the Mark Trail and Brasstown Wilderness Areas (section 2.1.4 and section 3.5.1 of the EA, section 3.1 of the DN). The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. This Environmental Assessment will be completed in accordance with US Forest Service standard procedures and associated handbooks/manuals, and is consistent with applicable laws and regulations. Any proposed activity within the "area for future expansion" identified on the conceptual site plan that is outside of activities assessed in the EA could warrant additional analysis. Under Alternative 1: No Action, the Forest Service would not establish a target range in Union County and the Forest Plan for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests would continue to guide management of the project area (see Section 2.1.1, Chapter 2 of EA). Under Alternative 1, there would be no designated facility in Union County to provide the public with the opportunity for recreational shooting. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).
36	Kobliha, Helen	General comment or position statement. Quality of life	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan.
37	Lance, Will	User conflicts, reclamation, clean-up, bonding, proposed action, scenery and visual resources.	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Lead management will be addressed in the Environmental Stewardship Plan, which is subject to USFS approval. The Environmental Assessment addresses impacts to scenery and mitigative measures to be implemented. In order to address the impacts to the scenery from the "linear" features of the backstops and berms, the backstops and berms should be developed using "undulating" berm edges with clustered evergreen tree planting at the top of the berms. Clarify in the decision document that a permit for the use and operation of the target range will require that these mitigation measures for scenery management be incorporated into the engineered design for the range. Any proposed activity within the "area for future expansion" identified on the conceptual site plan that is outside of activities assessed in the EA could warrant additional analysis.
38	Maguire Young, Dena	User conflicts, noise, and wildlife.	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain.
39	Maloney, Frank	User conflicts, safety, quality of life, reclamation, clean-up and bonding	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Lead management will be addressed in the Environmental Stewardship Plan, which is subject to USFS approval. The Environmental Assessment addresses impacts to scenery and mitigative measures to be implemented. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. The authorized officer may require the holder to furnish a surety bond or other security for any of the obligations imposed by the terms and conditions of this permit or any applicable law, regulation, or order.

#	Author	Concern / Issues	Response
40	Miller, Dayton	Noise, safety, reclamation, clean-up, and bonding	<p>Thank you for your comments. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. Please note in FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).</p>
41	Miller, Martha	General comment or position statement, hiking, backpacking, user conflicts, wilderness and roadless character.	<p>Thank you for your comments. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. This Environmental Assessment will be completed in accordance with US Forest Service standard procedures and associated handbooks/manuals, and is consistent with applicable laws and regulations. The Environmental Assessment was prepared in response to a Special Use Permit application from Union County. A location outside of Union County would not be within the scope of this project. The County would not be able to expend County funds outside of Union County. This record discloses the consideration of other potential sites for the proposed target range. (section 2.2 of the EA., page 11 –Alternatives Not Considered in Detail) and documents the rationale for determining them unsuitable. The Forest Service did consider a land exchange during the Special Use screening process, but it was not considered a viable alternative. There will be no significant effects on unique characteristics of the area, because there are no park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wilderness, wilderness study areas, inventoried roadless area, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas in the project area, nor will it violate local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (Chapter 3, Environmental Consequences, pages 13-45). The proposed site will not occur within these congressionally designated areas. Design criteria will mitigate any noise impacts to wilderness character to the Mark Trail and Brasstown Wilderness Areas (section 2.1.4 and section 3.5.1 of the EA, section 3.1 of the DN). The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).</p>

#	Author	Concern / Issues	Response
42	Nichols, Nick	Purpose and need, user conflicts, suggest new alternatives, noise, wildlife, economic and social actions, recreation management.	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Shooting range facilities are consistent with Forest Service policy (FSM 2335.4).The Environmental Assessment was prepared in response to a Special Use Permit application from Union County. A location outside of Union County would not be within the scope of this project. The County would not be able to expend County funds outside of Union County. This record discloses the consideration of other potential sites for the proposed target range. (section 2.2 of the EA., page 11 –Alternatives Not Considered in Detail) and documents the rationale for determining them unsuitable. The Forest Service did consider a land exchange during the Special Use screening process, but it was not considered a viable alternative.The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. Property value not determined to be a key issue because it is not supported by scientific research (J. Remakel, Winter 2008, Hamline L. Rev. Vol 31 No 1). The Forest Service searched the literature and consulted with social scientists and legal experts and could not find scholarly research proving a direct and statistically significant link that shooting ranges devalue surrounding property (Ken Cordell, personal communication, 2010, cited by Moffat, S in the Clay County EA, 2013). The journal cited and personal communication cited documents are available in the project record. This statement is cited in the EA under section 1.9.2.Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. This Environmental Assessment will be completed in accordance with US Forest Service standard procedures and associated handbooks/manuals, and is consistent with applicable laws and regulations. Any proposed activity within the "area for future expansion" identified on the conceptual site plan that is outside of activities assessed in the EA could warrant additional analysis. Under Alternative 1: No Action, the Forest Service would not establish a target range in Union County and the Forest Plan for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests would continue to guide management of the project area (see Section 2.1.1, Chapter 2 of EA). Under Alternative 1, there would be no designated facility in Union County to provide the public with the opportunity for recreational shooting. An Environmental Stewardship Plan, Safety Plan and Operating Plan are not required until a site has been selected, but are required prior to a Special Use authorization. All material used in preparation of the EA has been incorporated by reference (see EA Chapter 4: References Cited) and are publicly disclosed. Based upon 36 CFR 251, this use meets the definition of public interest. In addition, the Special Use Permit terms and conditions and Operating Plan will require Union County to meet the needs of the public in compliance with Title VI and other applicable laws. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).
43	Owen, George	Hiking, backpacking, noise, and safety.	Thank you for your comments. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Noise Acoustical Analysis for the proposed Union County Shooting Range was conducted and was published in the project record. This analysis discloses the best available science related to potential noise impacts from the conceptual range design including attenuation that would be provided by installed range berms and the berm affect created by local terrain. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).
44	Pattavina, Laci	Wildlife, soils management and water resources.	Thank you for submitting important information from the GA DNR records database. A Forest Service approved Environmental Stewardship Plan and engineered site design that meet all required BMPs are required to be in place prior to implementation. If, upon review of the engineered site design, during construction, or as a result of monitoring, the effects of activities fall outside of those assessed within the EA, additional analyses could be warranted. Compliance with law, policy and regulation is assured through this process. A Sediment and Erosion Control Plan will need to be approved by the USDA-Forest Service prior to construction, this is a requirement that will be included in the Environmental Stewardship Plan. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. This Environmental Assessment will be completed in accordance with US Forest Service standard procedures and associated handbooks/manuals, and is consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

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45	Peppers, Donald	General comment or position statement, safety, hiking, and backpacking.	Thank you for your comments. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. This Environmental Assessment will be completed in accordance with US Forest Service standard procedures and associated handbooks/manuals, and is consistent with applicable laws and regulations. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).
46	Pruitt, Kaitlyn	Hiking, backpacking, noise, and safety.	Thank you for your comments. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Forest Service approved Environmental Stewardship Plan and engineered site design that meet all required BMPs are required to be in place prior to implementation. If, upon review of the engineered site design, during construction, or as a result of monitoring, the effects of activities fall outside of those assessed within the EA, additional analyses could be warranted. Compliance with law, policy and regulation is assured through this process. A Sediment and Erosion Control Plan will need to be approved by the USDA-Forest Service prior to construction, this is a requirement that will be included in the Environmental Stewardship Plan. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).
47	Rhodes, Denny	Safety, noise, recreation management, transportation analysis, recreation in wilderness, roadless, reclamation, clean-up, bonding and soils management.	Thank you for your comments. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. A Forest Service approved Environmental Stewardship Plan and engineered site design that meet all required BMPs are required to be in place prior to implementation. If, upon review of the engineered site design, during construction, or as a result of monitoring, the effects of activities fall outside of those assessed within the EA, additional analyses could be warranted. Compliance with law, policy and regulation is assured through this process. A Sediment and Erosion Control Plan will need to be approved by the USDA-Forest Service prior to construction, this is a requirement that will be included in the Environmental Stewardship Plan. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. An Environmental Stewardship Plan, Safety Plan and Operating Plan are not required until a site has been selected, but are required prior to a Special Use authorization. Based upon 36 CFR 251, this use meets the definition of public interest. In addition, the Special Use Permit terms and conditions and Operating Plan will require Union County to meet the needs of the public in compliance with Title VI and other applicable laws. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).
48	Rhodes, Lois	Hiking, backpacking, noise, wilderness, roadless character, and safety.	Thank you for your comments. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. This Environmental Assessment will be completed in accordance with US Forest Service standard procedures and associated handbooks/manuals, and is consistent with applicable laws and regulations. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).

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49	Seabolt, Jerry	Hiking, backpacking, noise, suggest new alternatives, and safety.	Thank you for your comments. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. The Environmental Assessment was prepared in response to a Special Use Permit application from Union County. A location outside of Union County would not be within the scope of this project. The County would not be able to expend County funds outside of Union County. This record discloses the consideration of other potential sites for the proposed target range. (section 2.2 of the EA., page 11 –Alternatives Not Considered in Detail) and documents the rationale for determining them unsuitable. The Forest Service did consider a land exchange during the Special Use screening process, but it was not considered a viable alternative. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. Any proposed activity within the "area for future expansion" identified on the conceptual site plan that is outside of activities assessed in the EA could warrant additional analysis. Under Alternative 1: No Action, the Forest Service would not establish a target range in Union County and the Forest Plan for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests would continue to guide management of the project area (see Section 2.1.1, Chapter 2 of EA). Under Alternative 1, there would be no designated facility in Union County to provide the public with the opportunity for recreational shooting. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).
50	Shenefield, Jordan	Hiking, backpacking, noise, wilderness, roadless character, and safety.	Thank you for your comments. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. This Environmental Assessment will be completed in accordance with US Forest Service standard procedures and associated handbooks/manuals, and is consistent with applicable laws and regulations. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).
51	Siemianowski, Thomas	Safety, water resources, hiking, backpacking, wildlife, noise, reclamation, clean-up and bonding.	Thank you for your comments. A Forest Service approved Environmental Stewardship Plan and engineered site design that meet all required BMPs are required to be in place prior to implementation. If, upon review of the engineered site design, during construction, or as a result of monitoring, the effects of activities fall outside of those assessed within the EA, additional analyses could be warranted. Compliance with law, policy and regulation is assured through this process. A Sediment and Erosion Control Plan will need to be approved by the USDA-Forest Service prior to construction, this is a requirement that will be included in the Environmental Stewardship Plan. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. This Environmental Assessment will be completed in accordance with US Forest Service standard procedures and associated handbooks/manuals, and is consistent with applicable laws and regulations. Lead management will be addressed in the Environmental Stewardship Plan, which is subject to USFS approval. An Environmental Stewardship Plan, Safety Plan and Operating Plan are not required until a site has been selected, but are required prior to a Special Use authorization.
52	Smythe, Johnathon	Alternative(s) not analyzed in detail.	Thank you for your comments. The Environmental Assessment was prepared in response to a Special Use Permit application from Union County. A location outside of Union County would not be within the scope of this project. The County would not be able to expend County funds outside of Union County. This record discloses the consideration of other potential sites for the proposed target range. (section 2.2 of the EA., page 11 –Alternatives Not Considered in Detail) and documents the rationale for determining them unsuitable. The Forest Service did consider a land exchange during the Special Use screening process, but it was not considered a viable alternative. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Under Alternative 1: No Action, the Forest Service would not establish a target range in Union County and the Forest Plan for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests would continue to guide management of the project area (see Section 2.1.1, Chapter 2 of EA). Under Alternative 1, there would be no designated facility in Union County to provide the public with the opportunity for recreational shooting. An Environmental Stewardship Plan, Safety Plan and Operating Plan are not required until a site has been selected, but are required prior to a Special Use authorization. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).

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53	Sommerville, Morgan	Hiking, backpacking, noise, safety, purpose and need, suggest new alternative.	Thank you for your comments. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. Based upon 36 CFR 251, this use meets the definition of public interest. In addition, the Special Use Permit terms and conditions and Operating Plan will require Union County to meet the needs of the public in compliance with Title VI and other applicable laws. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).
54	Spetnagel, Ted	Suggest new alternatives, public safety.	Thank you for your comments. The Environmental Assessment was prepared in response to a Special Use Permit application from Union County. A location outside of Union County would not be within the scope of this project. The County would not be able to expend County funds outside of Union County. This record discloses the consideration of other potential sites for the proposed target range. (section 2.2 of the EA., page 11 –Alternatives Not Considered in Detail) and documents the rationale for determining them unsuitable. The Forest Service did consider a land exchange during the Special Use screening process, but it was not considered a viable alternative. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Any proposed activity within the "area for future expansion" identified on the conceptual site plan that is outside of activities assessed in the EA could warrant additional analysis. Under Alternative 1: No Action, the Forest Service would not establish a target range in Union County and the Forest Plan for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests would continue to guide management of the project area (see Section 2.1.1, Chapter 2 of EA). Under Alternative 1, there would be no designated facility in Union County to provide the public with the opportunity for recreational shooting.
55	Theus, Brenda	Hiking, backpacking, noise, and safety.	Thank you for your comments. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).
56	Thompson, Darlene	General comment or position statement.	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Shooting range facilities are consistent with Forest Service policy (FSM 2335.4). The Environmental Assessment was prepared in response to a Special Use Permit application from Union County. A location outside of Union County would not be within the scope of this project. The County would not be able to expend County funds outside of Union County.
57	Thompson, Sidney	General comment or position statement.	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Shooting range facilities are consistent with Forest Service policy (FSM 2335.4). The Environmental Assessment was prepared in response to a Special Use Permit application from Union County. A location outside of Union County would not be within the scope of this project. The County would not be able to expend County funds outside of Union County.
58	Wilhelm, Michel	General comment or position statement.	Thank you for your comments. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Shooting range facilities are consistent with Forest Service policy (FSM 2335.4). The Environmental Assessment was prepared in response to a Special Use Permit application from Union County. A location outside of Union County would not be within the scope of this project. The County would not be able to expend County funds outside of Union County.

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59	Wilhelm, Susan	Hiking, backpacking, safety, wilderness and roadless character.	Thank you for your comments. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. This Environmental Assessment will be completed in accordance with US Forest Service standard procedures and associated handbooks/manuals, and is consistent with applicable laws and regulations. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).
60	Wright, Hilda	Hiking, backpacking, safety, and noise.	Thank you for your comments. The Target Range Environmental Stewardship Plan will define the engineering controls for sound mitigation including berms and non-porous walls that serve to deflect and absorb sound, covered shooting positions, overhead baffles above the shooting positions, and barriers placed behind shooting stations to further mitigate sound effects. Vegetation will also be utilized to reduce sound by preserving as much existing vegetation as feasible and by planting selected species such as evergreens and hedges that retain sound-absorbing foliage. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. Design measures to mitigate noise will be implemented and are discussed in the Environmental Assessment. The project is consistent with the objectives and goals of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Plan. Please note in DN/FONSI reference to project safety mitigations in Section 3, Details of the Decision. Safety guidelines outlined by National Rifle Association (NRA) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) will be integral, required elements of the Operating Plan and Safety Plan for the range. There will be no deviation from the required guideline elements, including a required grade of shooting lanes no greater than 2%. As required by FSH 2709.14 'Target Ranges and other Outdoor Recreation Improvements,' an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) that includes an Operating Plan and Safety Plan will be submitted by the proponent and approved by the Forest Service prior to issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Forest Service must approve the ESP prior to issuance of the permit. The proposed target range is outside the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and does not require consultation with the National Park Service. While responsibility for overall Trail administration lies with the National Park Service, land-managing agencies retain their authority on lands under their jurisdiction (Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan 1981, abridged version published 1987).