

Urban Front Country Environmental Assessment

Project Framework:

The Urban Front Country Initiative was created to address the issues of recreational overuse and inconsistent regulations on public lands along the Front Range. Activities included in the Initiative that the Boulder Ranger District will be addressing as first priority are:

- Recreational shooting
- Dispersed camping
- Campfires

In Fiscal Year 2006, the Boulder Ranger District will review and update shooting regulations for the District and begin the assessment for dispersed camping and campfires as part of travel management and implementation of the OHV rule. At this time, we are gathering the issues surrounding recreation shooting (this excludes hunting), dispersed camping, and campfires on the Boulder Ranger District. The following issues have been identified to date. Please take a moment to review them and make any suggestions or add to them on the enclosed response form.

Issues:

Recreation Shooting:

Regulation Issues:

- ❖ 150 Yard regulation – extend distance?
- ❖ What is the definition of an occupied site?
- ❖ What is the definition of an effective backdrop?
- ❖ How to interpret the regulations
- ❖ Regulations are hard to find
- ❖ Consistency with other agency regulations
- ❖ Enforcement

Safety:

- ❖ Near misses
- ❖ Perceived threat by Forest users and landowners
- ❖ Health impacts on users (shooters and non-shooters) from shot up monitors, refrigerators and other appliances containing toxic materials
- ❖ Safety for Forest Service personnel working in the field
- ❖ Fires caused by shooters

Natural Resource Impacts:

- ❖ Soil contamination and soil erosion
- ❖ Water Quality
- ❖ Wildlife habitat impacts
- ❖ Shooting of animals (domestic and wild) in a non-hunting capacity
- ❖ Vegetation
- ❖ Hazardous materials
- ❖ Trash – define and enforce
- ❖ Forest Plan Consistency

(Over Please)

Recreation:

- ❖ Where to shoot? What opportunities are available to provide shooting?
- ❖ Displacement of shooters and other recreationists, competing needs
- ❖ Types of experiences to provide given the diverse requirements for various types of firearms and shooter types (e.g. high powered rifle versus handgun; compound bow versus semi-automatic rifles)
- ❖ Vandalism
- ❖ Foregone National Forest opportunities
- ❖ Destruction of cultural sites
- ❖ Shooting from vehicles
- ❖ Lack of specialized places to shoot designed just for shooters
- ❖ Lack of shooting education
- ❖ Differing opportunity needs for differing shooting experiences

User Conflicts:

- ❖ User -to-user conflicts
 - Noise
 - Proximity
- ❖ User-home owner conflicts
 - Noise
 - Proximity

Dispersed Camping and Campfires:

Natural Resource Impacts

- ❖ Soil compaction
- ❖ Destruction of surrounding vegetation for campfire fuel
- ❖ Camping in or close to riparian or other water resources

Recreation

- ❖ Abandoned campfires
- ❖ Escape fire from improper campfire safety
- ❖ Legal access to camping sites
- ❖ Trash
- ❖ Sanitation
- ❖ Vandalism and part spots

What Other issues do you see that are not represented here?

How to Make Your Input Effective

A Guide To Making Comments That Work

You Must Know:

- The type of Document being prepared
 - In the case of the Urban Front Country Project, an Environmental Assessment is being prepared
- Stage of the Planning Process
 - Initial scoping meaning public involvement
- How the input will be used
 - To develop issues and then possible solutions to those issues

Your Comments should be:

- Specific
 - Address specific issues, statements, or inconsistencies
 - Describe your specific desires
 - Indicate what you support as well as oppose
 - Avoid moral or emotional appeals
- Clear
 - Isolate separate points in separate paragraphs or with bullets
 - Identify the offending statement, issue, or action
 - Describe the problems with the statement, issue, or action
 - Keep it simple
- Provide Information
 - Provide information as early in the process as possible
 - Provide or reference as much information as possible
 - Develop your own alternatives
- Request Action
 - In all cases, let the planners know what changes you want to see
 - Give them choices if possible
 - If you present new information, make sure to ask them to include it in the analysis

What you should do after submitting comments

- Stay involved