

BOULDER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

November 15, 2022

1:00 p.m.

Hybrid: In-Person and Zoom Webinar

- **In-Person** in the Commissioners’ Hearing Room, Boulder County Courthouse, Third Floor, 1325 Pearl Street, Boulder.
- **Virtual meeting via Zoom.** REGISTRATION REQUIRED (can be done at time of hearing). Virtual Attendee Link: <https://boco.org/BOCC-Nov15-2022>.
- **Call-in information:** 1-833-568-8864, Webinar ID: 161 107 3748

PUBLIC HEARING with PUBLIC TESTIMONY

In-Person Comment Sign up: <https://boco.org/In-Person-BOCC-Nov15-2022>

STAFF PRESENTERS:

Clay Fong, Chief of Staff, Commissioners’ Office

Melanie Lewis, Senior Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney’s Office

Ethan Abner, Long Range Planner, Community Planning & Permitting

PURPOSE:

The purpose of today’s hearing is for the Boulder County Commissioners to consider “No-Firearm Discharge Area Shooting Closures” in Western Boulder County, including designating new areas in the Magnolia community and the Raymond/Riverside community as ones that are closed to the discharge of firearms, and an expansion of an existing closure in the Sugarloaf community.

County staff will present maps and boundary recommendations of potential closure areas to the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration. These presentations will begin with an overview from the County Attorney’s Office detailing the statutory authority for the Board to designate an area as one within which the discharge of firearms is prohibited. Also presenting are representatives from the Boulder County Sheriff’s Office, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, and the U.S. Forest Service. The Boulder County Commissioners will also be accepting comment from the public on this issue.

Discharge of firearms in close proximity to and within Western Boulder County communities has been a long-standing concern. A firearm is: any pistol, revolver, rifle, or other weapon of any description from which any shot, projectile or bullet may be discharged. A projectile also includes any arrows, shot from a bow of any type. Public safety risks, including the potential for injury or death resulting from negligent firearms discharge and increased fire danger top the list of possible harms. Other factors that play into the establishment of no-discharge areas include environmental impacts, such as those related to clean water; responsible stewardship of wildlife resources; and the ability of law enforcement to respond to shooting-related offenses. Limited law enforcement resources

and related issues such as the ability to mount a timely response and the sometimes-difficult nature of determining whether an offense occurred in a closure area are some of the challenges when it comes to successful policing of these infractions.

Previous Boards have considered designating additional closure areas similar to the one currently existing in the Sugarloaf community, and last year the current Board held a public meeting regarding a proposed expansion of the Sugarloaf closure.

In addition to exploring individual closures around specific communities, the Boulder County Commissioners are working with such organizations as the Northern Front Range Recreational Sport Shooting Management Partnership to develop solutions for recreational sport shooting. These include working towards construction of a suitable public shooting range that would lead to a shooting closure of 80,000 acres of public land in Western Boulder County.

Resolutions Prohibiting the Discharge of Firearms in Unincorporated Areas

Consideration of proposed firearm discharge prohibition areas in Western Boulder County, including new closures in the Magnolia community and the Raymond/Riverside community, and an expansion of an existing closure in the Sugarloaf community that the Board previously designated in Boulder County Resolution No. 80-52, “A Resolution to Limit the Discharge of Firearms in Mountain Meadows, Mountain Pines, Pride of the West, and Sugarloaf Acres Subdivisions and Surrounding Areas.” Community Planning & Permitting staff have conducted an analysis of the proposed areas and determined that they meet the statutory density requirements.

PACKET CONTENTS

Item	Pages
Staff Background Information/Recommendation	1 – 3
Existing Sugarloaf Firearm Discharge Prohibition Area	A1
Proposed Sugarloaf Firearm Discharge Prohibition Area	B1
Proposed Raymond/Riverside Firearm Discharge Prohibition Area	C1
Proposed Magnolia Firearm Discharge Prohibition Area	D1

SUMMARY

Part 3 of Article 15 of Title 30, Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to designate areas in Unincorporated Boulder County within which it is unlawful for any person to discharge any firearm, except a duly authorized law enforcement officer acting in the line of duty. Subsection (1) of C.R.S. 30-15-301 defines a firearm as any pistol, revolver, rifle, or other weapon of any description from which any shot, projectile, or bullet may be discharged.

Nothing in subsection (1) of C.R.S. 30-15-302 prevents the discharge of any firearm in shooting galleries or in any private grounds or residence under circumstances when such firearm can be discharged in such a manner as not to endanger persons or property and also in such a manner as to prevent the projectile from any such firearm from traversing any

grounds or space outside the limits of such shooting gallery, grounds, or residence. The statute further provides that the designation of an area as closed to firearms discharges shall not be construed to restrict or otherwise affect a person's constitutional right to bear arms or the right to defend the person's self, family, or property.

To designate an area within which the discharge of firearms is prohibited, the statute requires that the proposed area have an average population density of not less than one hundred persons per square mile. Staff conducted density analyses for the proposed areas and determined that this requirement was met.

ANALYSIS

Proposed Expanded Sugarloaf Firearm Discharge Prohibition Area

The proposal would expand the existing firearm discharge prohibition area designated by Resolution No. 80-52, "A Resolution to Limit the Discharge of Firearms in Mountain Meadows, Mountain Pines, Pride of the West, and Sugarloaf Acres Subdivisions and Surrounding Areas."

Within the existing area, which is represented in Attachment A1, there are 236 housing units. This area has an average of 2.258 persons per occupied housing unit. This gives the existing area an estimated population of 533 persons. The existing area encompasses 4.31 square miles, which calculates to a density of 123.7 persons per square mile ($533/4.31 = \sim 123.7$).

The proposed boundary includes the existing closure area. Within the proposed boundary there are 578 housing units. Based on available data from the 2020 Census, this area has an average 2.166 persons per occupied housing unit. This gives the expanded area an estimated population of 1,252 persons. The proposed boundary encompasses 12.36 square miles, which calculates to a density of 101.3 persons per square mile ($1252/12.36 = 101.3$) and meets the State minimum requirement of 100 persons per square mile.

The boundary of the proposed area, which is represented in Attachment B1, is generally described by Fourmile Creek on the north, Middle Boulder and Boulder Creek on the south, Section 23, 27, and 35 on the west, and Section 34 on the east.

Proposed Raymond/Riverside Firearm Discharge Prohibition Area

Within the proposed boundary for the Raymond/Riverside area, there are 206 housing units. Based on available data from the 2020 Census, this area has an average 1.932 persons per occupied housing unit. This gives the area an estimated population of 398 persons. The proposed boundary encompasses 3.57 square miles, which calculates to a density of 111.5 persons per square mile ($398/3.57 = 111.5$) and meets the State minimum requirement of 100 persons per square mile.

The boundary of the proposed area, which is represented in Attachment C1 is generally described as SH 7 on the north, ¼ mile from FR 523.1 on the east, ¼ mile from FR 252.1 and public lands border on the south, and SH 72 and ¼ mile from Bunce School Road on the west.

Proposed Magnolia Firearm Discharge Prohibition Area

Within the proposed boundary for the Magnolia Firearm Discharge Prohibition Area, there are 380 housing units. Based on available data from the 2020 Census, this area has an average 2.222 persons per occupied housing unit. This gives the proposed area an estimated population of 845 persons. The proposed boundary encompasses 7.89 square miles, which calculates to a density of 107 persons per square mile ($845/7.89 = 107$) and meets the State minimum requirement of 100 persons per square mile.

The boundary of the proposed area, which is represented in Attachment D1, is generally described as private lands along Magnolia Drive, including enclaves of public lands, areas within ¼ miles of Forest Road 357, and areas within ¼ mile of Forest Road 321 north of Magnolia Drive.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

STAFF FINDS THAT THE DENSITY REQUIREMENT IN C.R.S. 30-15-302 IS MET FOR THE PROPOSED FIREARM DISCHARGE PROHIBITION AREAS AND RECOMMENDS THAT THE INCLUDED MAPS BE CONSIDERED IN ANY MOTION TO DEFINE THE FIREARM DISCHARGE PROHIBITION AREAS.



Board of County Commissioners November 15, 2022

Public Hearing: Proposed Sport Shooting Closures *Hybrid Hearing*

Staff Planner: Ethan Abner (eabner@bouldercounty.org)

Statutory Requirement

No area shall be so designated under authority of subsection (1) of this section **unless it has an average population density of not less than one hundred persons per square mile in the area designated**, and, before making any such designation, **the board of county commissioners shall hold a public hearing** thereon at which any interested person shall have an opportunity to be heard.

Calculating Density

1. Calculate area of firearm discharge prohibition area.
2. Use assessor data to determine # of housing units.
3. Use Census data to determine # of persons per housing unit.
4. # of housing units multiplied by # of persons per housing unit = estimated population
5. Estimated population divided by area of firearm discharge prohibition area = estimated density



Community Planning & Permitting

2045 13th Street, Boulder, CO 80302 303-441-3930 www.bouldercounty.org

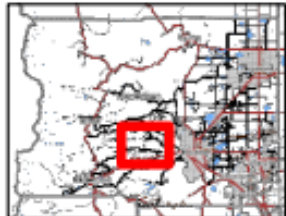
Attachment A1 Sugarloaf Firearm Discharge Prohibition Area Resolution 1980-52

-  Firearm Control Area
-  State Hwy
-  Major
-  Minor County Rd
-  County Jeep Rd
-  US Forest Roads
-  County Open Space
-  County Conservation Easement
-  County Miscellaneous Easement
-  USFS Land
-  BLM Land
-  City Of Boulder Open Space

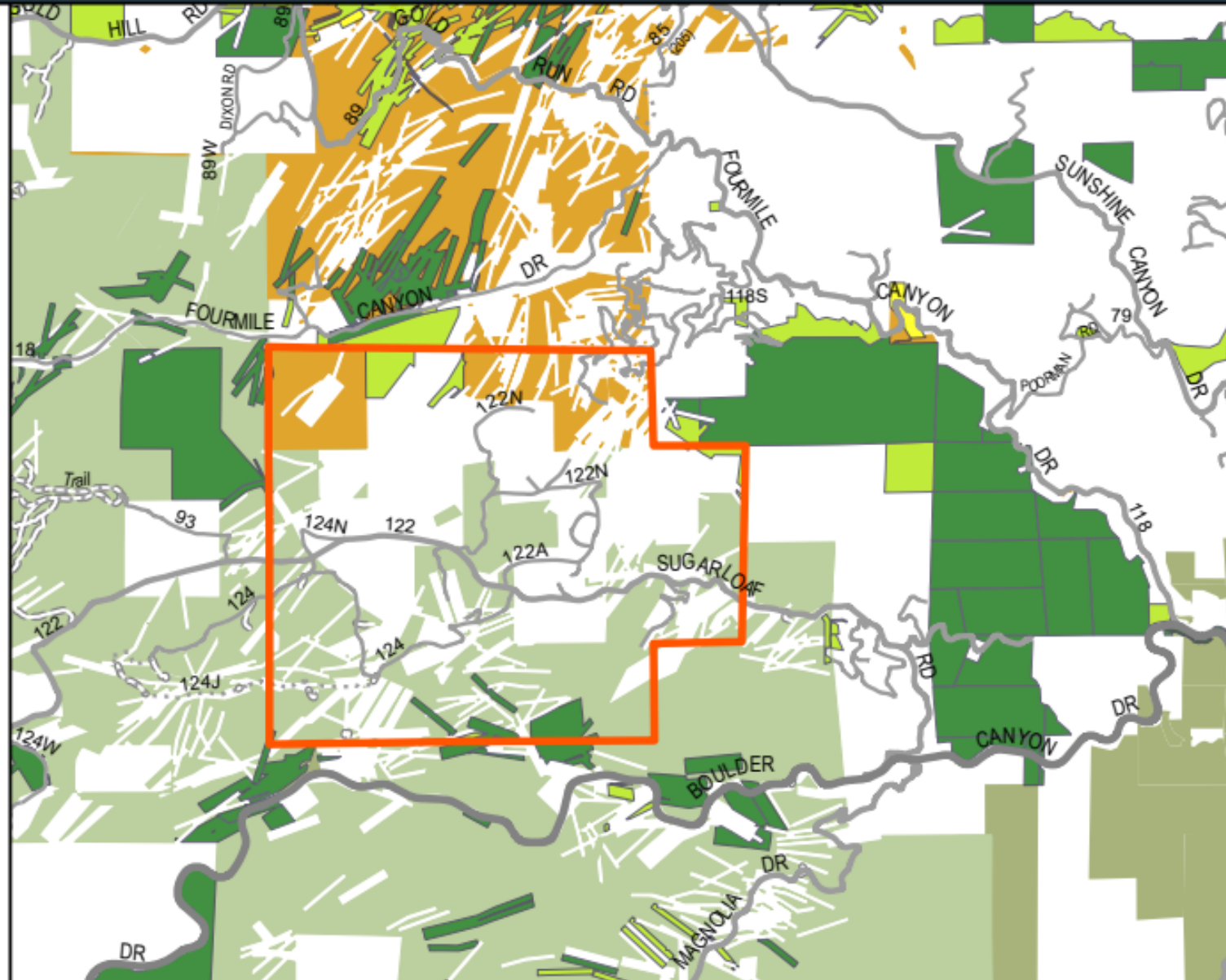
0 0.25 0.5 Miles



Area of Detail Date: 11/10/2022



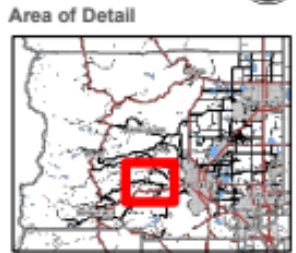
The user agrees to all Terms of Use set forth by Boulder County. For Terms of Use, please visit: www.bouldercounty.org/dhaines



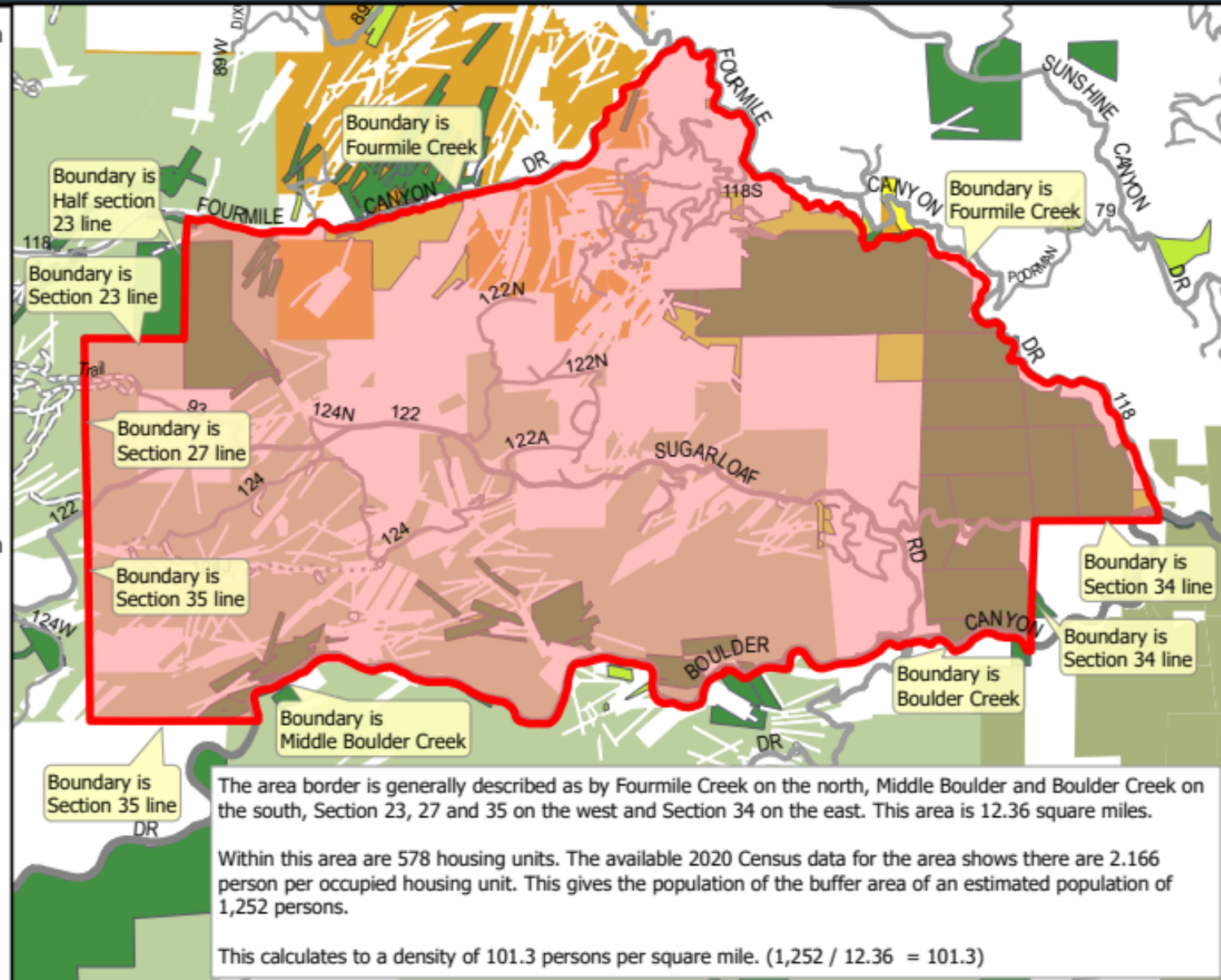


Attachment B1 Sugarloaf Firearm Discharge Prohibition Area

- Discharge Prohibition Area
- State Hwy
- Major
- Minor County Rd
- County Jeep Rd
- US Forest Roads
- USFS Land
- BLM Land
- County Open Space
- County Conservation Easement
- County Miscellaneous Easement
- City Of Boulder Open Space



Printed: 11/10/2022



The area border is generally described as by Fourmile Creek on the north, Middle Boulder and Boulder Creek on the south, Section 23, 27 and 35 on the west and Section 34 on the east. This area is 12.36 square miles.

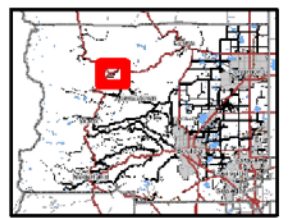
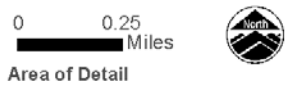
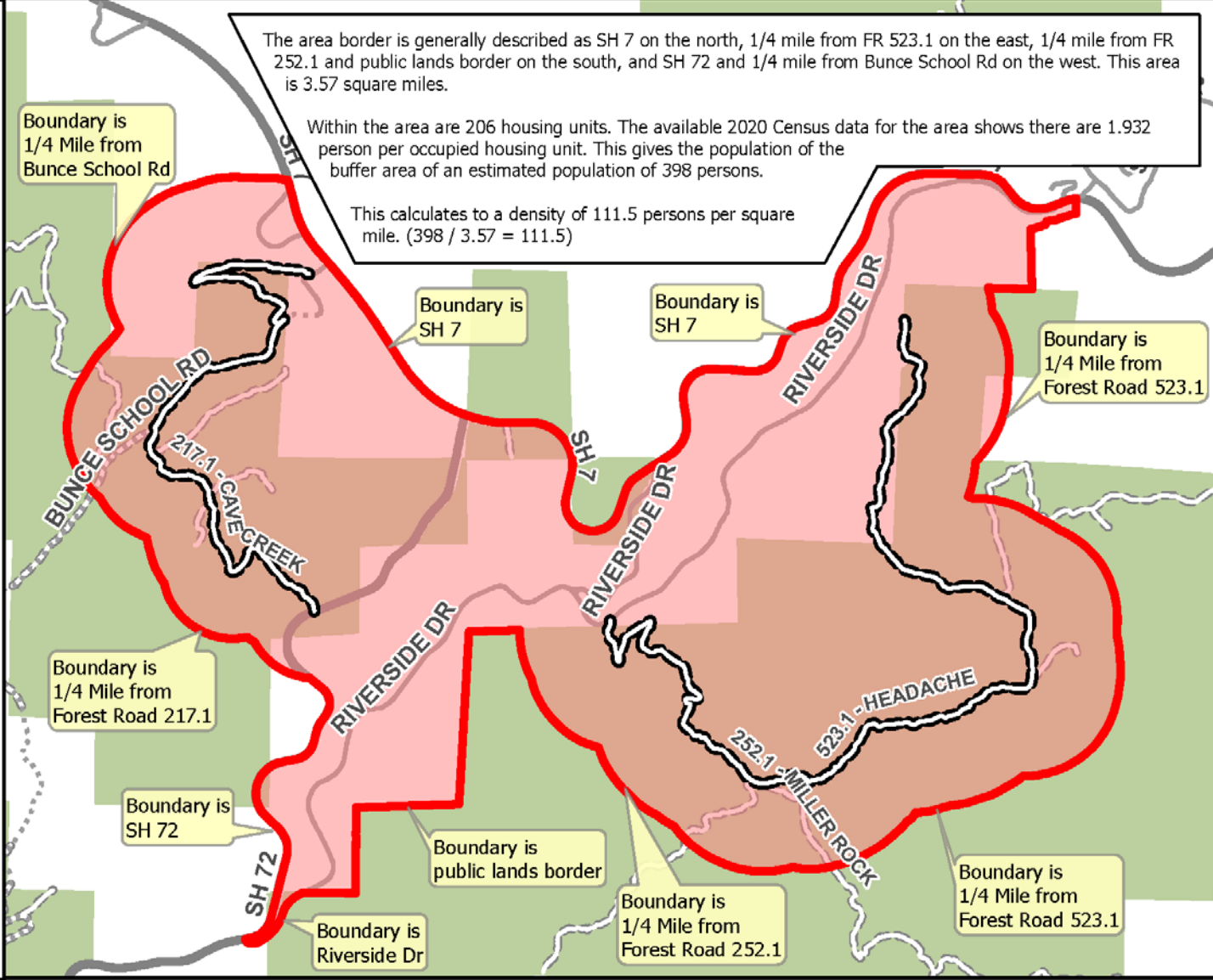
Within this area are 578 housing units. The available 2020 Census data for the area shows there are 2.166 person per occupied housing unit. This gives the population of the buffer area of an estimated population of 1,252 persons.

This calculates to a density of 101.3 persons per square mile. $(1,252 / 12.36 = 101.3)$



Attachment C1 Raymond-Riverside Firearm Discharge Prohibition Area

- Discharge Prohibition Area
- State Hwy
- Minor County Rd
- County Jeep Rd
- US Forest Roads
- USFS Land



Printed: 11/14/2022



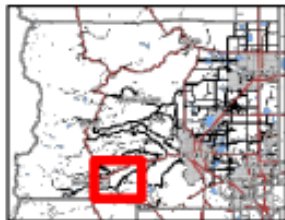
Attachment D1 Magnolia Firearm Discharge Prohibition Area

- Discharge Prohibition Area
- State Hwy
- Major
- Minor County Rd
- County Jeep Rd
- Other
- Gross Reservoir IGA Prohibiting Discharge
- US Forest Roads
- USFS Land
- BLM Land
- County Open Space
- County Conservation Easement
- County Miscellaneous Easement

0 0.25 0.5
Miles



Area of Detail

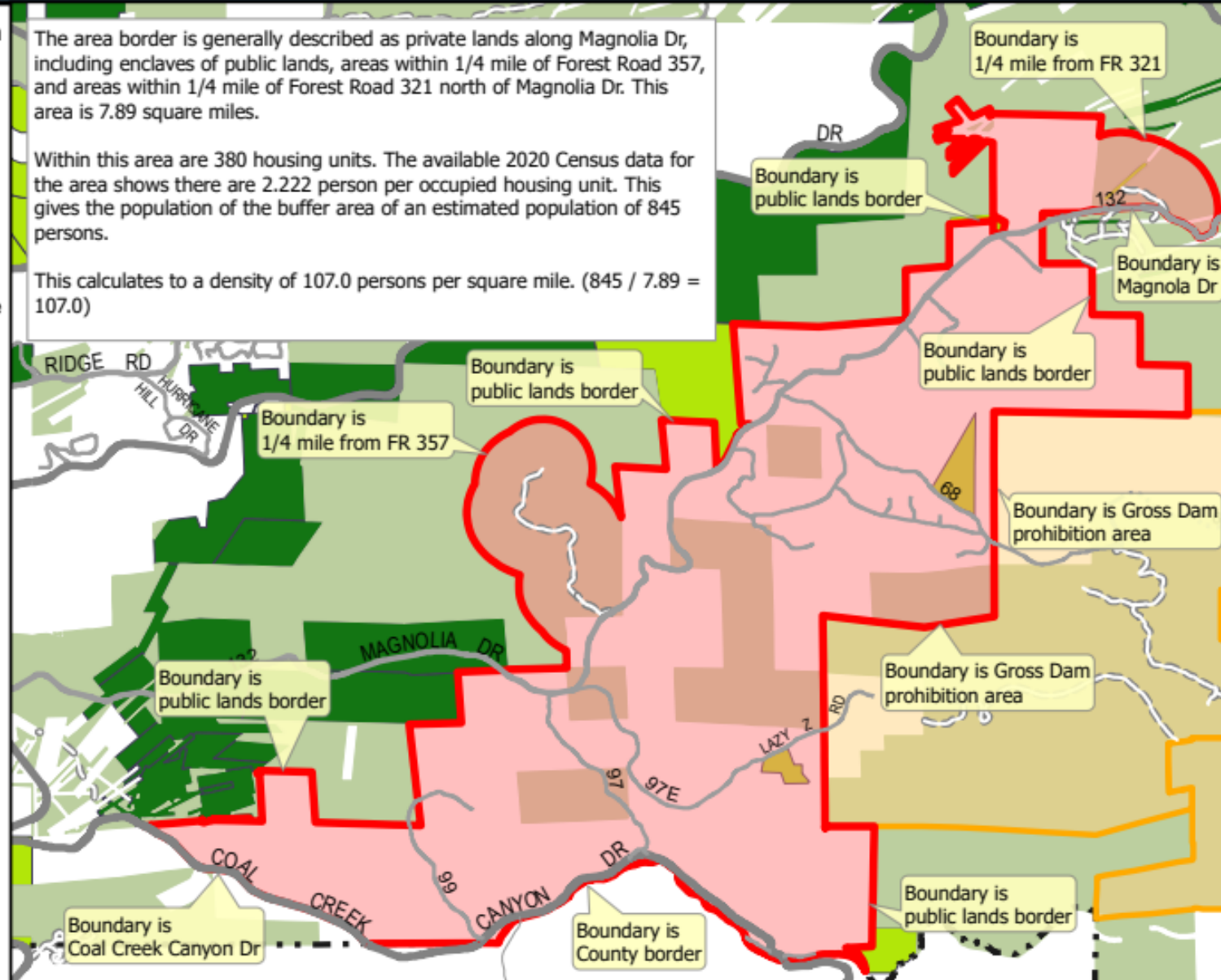


Printed: 11/10/2022

The area border is generally described as private lands along Magnolia Dr, including enclaves of public lands, areas within 1/4 mile of Forest Road 357, and areas within 1/4 mile of Forest Road 321 north of Magnolia Dr. This area is 7.89 square miles.

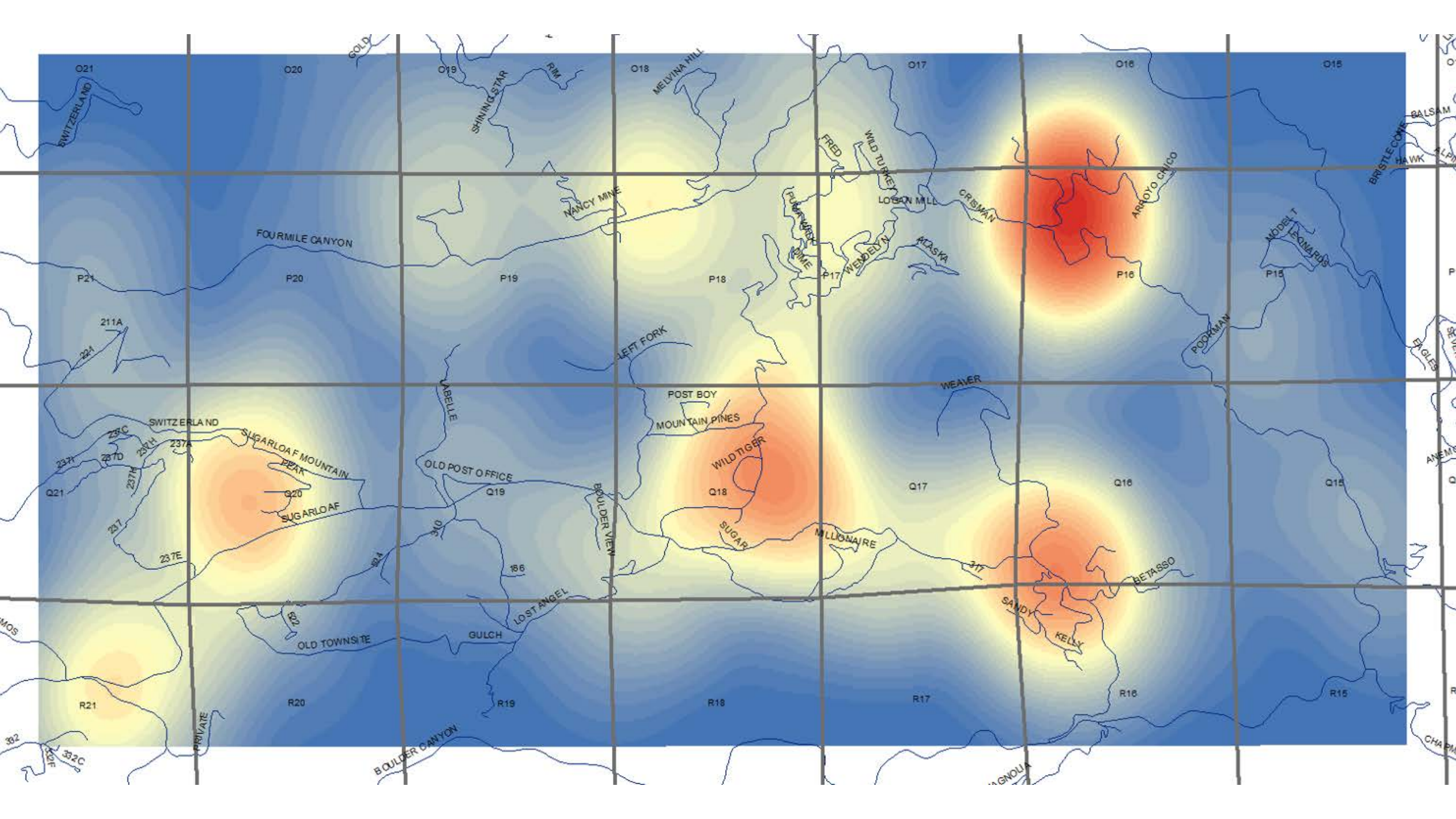
Within this area are 380 housing units. The available 2020 Census data for the area shows there are 2.222 person per occupied housing unit. This gives the population of the buffer area of an estimated population of 845 persons.

This calculates to a density of 107.0 persons per square mile. ($845 / 7.89 = 107.0$)



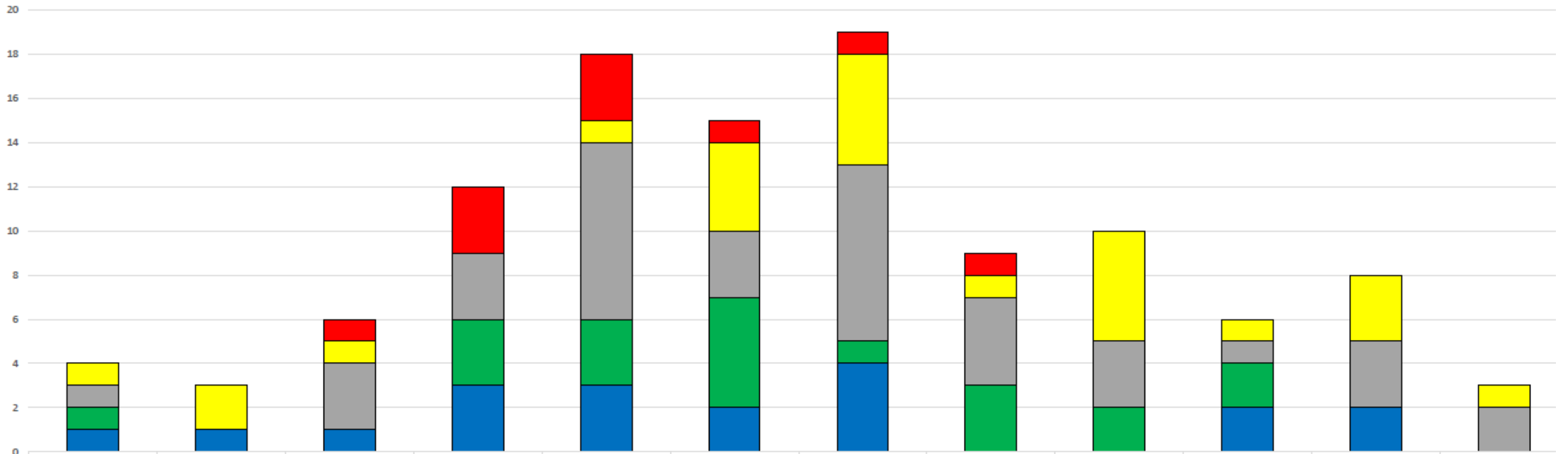
Sugarloaf Shooting Closure

Boulder County Sheriff's office



CFS by Month and Year

Shooting Complaint Calls for Service (CFS) by Month and Year



Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	0	0	1	3	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
2021	1	2	1	0	1	4	5	1	5	1	3	1
2020	1	0	3	3	8	3	8	4	3	1	3	2
2019	1	0	0	3	3	5	1	3	2	2	0	0
2018	1	1	1	3	3	2	4	0	0	2	2	0

Dispositions

Call Disposition	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
CS Clear	11	10	28	17	5	71
DS Duplicate		1				1
GS General Assistance Given	1	1				2
HS Handled In Service	1					1
MS Message Relayed / Left		1		1		2
RS Report			1			1
US UTL / GOA	4	5	8	5	3	25
WS Warning Given	1	1		1		3
XS Call Canceled	1		1			2
ZS Aired		1	1	1	2	5
	19	20	39	25	10	113

High Frequency callers

Caller	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
[REDACTED]		1	1	4		6
[REDACTED]	2		1	1		4
[REDACTED]			3	1		4
[REDACTED]		1	2			3
[REDACTED]			1	1		2
[REDACTED]	1		1			2
[REDACTED]					2	2
[REDACTED]			2			2
[REDACTED]			2			2
[REDACTED]				2		2
	3	2	13	9	2	29

Two reports since 2020 both related to hunting

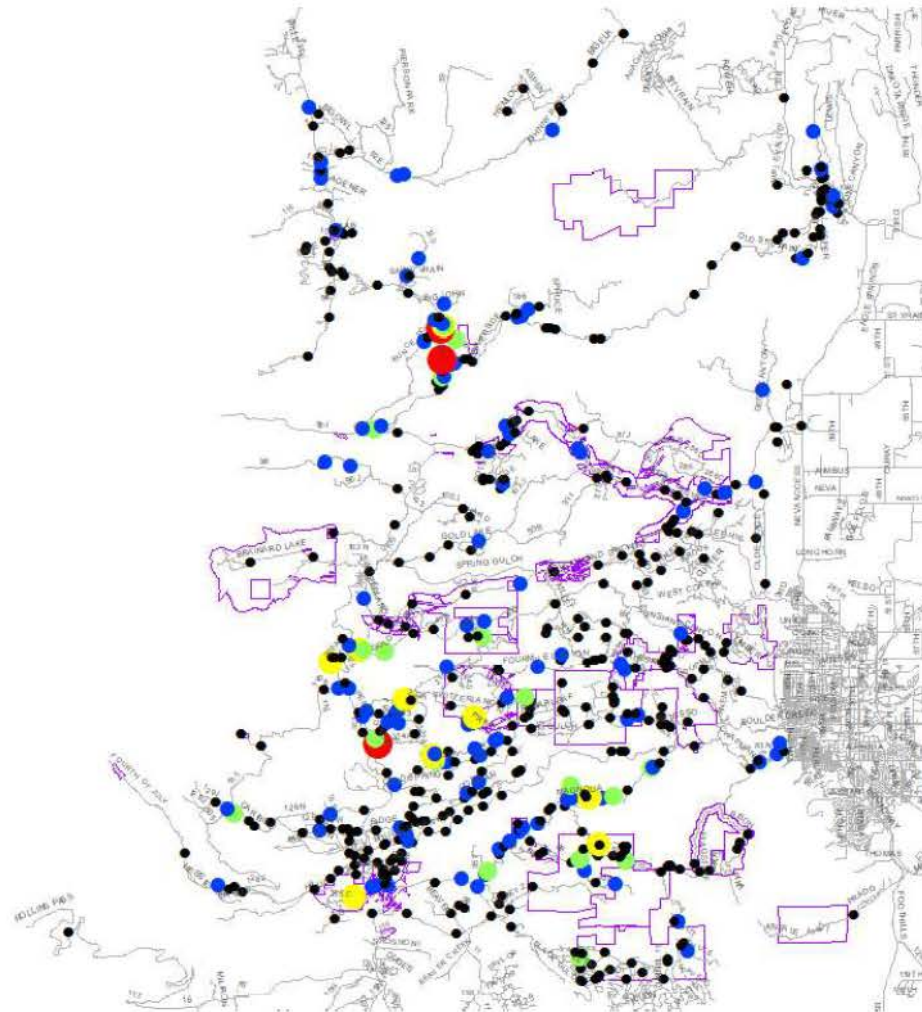
BCSO201118-0005108			BCSO			
11/18/2020 10:08:08AM	[1] RP SAYS THERE ARE HUNTERS THAT KILLED A DEER ON OPEN SPACE PROPERTY, STILL THERE CLEANING THE DEER WEARING ORANGE HUNTING GEAR					
11/18/2020 10:08:55AM	[2] SAYS IT IS DIRECTLY WEST OF HIM BUT BETTER ACCESS IS FROM SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN					
11/18/2020 10:18:00AM	[3] Backed up 654 with 1788					
11/18/2020 10:20:18AM	[4] WILDLIFE 127 ENROUTE					
11/18/2020 11:54:18AM	[5] Backed up 654 with 1789					
11/18/2020 12:10:32PM	[6] Requested Case Number(s) issued for Incident #[BCSO201118-041383], Jurisdiction: BCSO. Case Number(s): BCSO201118-0005108. requested by 654.					
Walter (654), Daniel						
654	11/18/2020 10:10:07AM	11/18/2020 10:10:07AM	11/18/2020 10:59:14AM	11/18/2020 12:26:03PM	RS Report	True
1788	11/18/2020 10:18:00AM	11/18/2020 10:18:00AM		11/18/2020 11:12:10AM	CS Clear	False
1789	11/18/2020 11:54:18AM	11/18/2020 11:54:18AM	11/18/2020 11:54:18AM	11/18/2020 12:26:03PM	RS Report	False

CFS (shooting related) 2018-2021

**Shooting Complaint
Calls for Service (CFS) Data
January 2018 – July 2021**

CFS Appear to be a Product of the
Access to and Suitability of the
Geography for Shooting Activities

The Amount of Accessible, Suitable
Geography Contained in the Closure
Areas (Purple Outline) Appears
Commensurate with the Volume of
Call Load Generated (~13%)



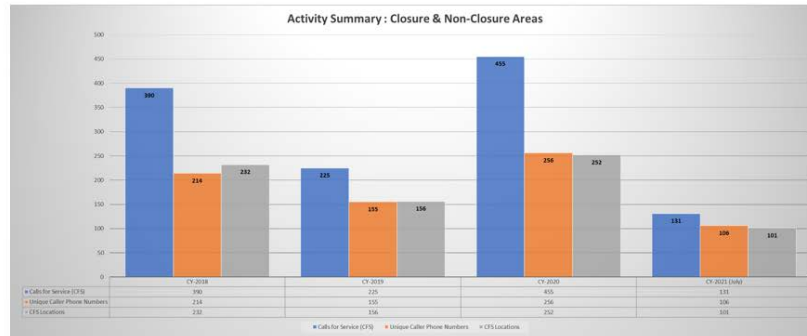
Historical information

Shooting Complaint Calls for Service (CFS) Data January 2018 – July 2021

Repeat Callers and Repeat Locations Contribute Significantly to Call Load

The Average Caller Generated 1.8 CFS – The Top Contributing Single Caller Generated 37 CFS

The Average Location Generated 2.1 CFS – The Top Contributing Single Location Generated 104 CFS

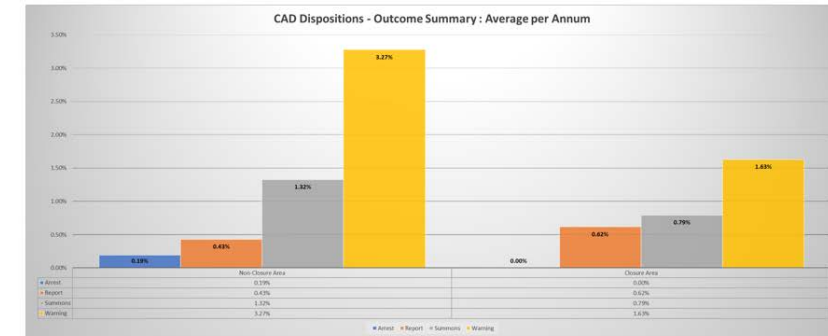


Shooting Complaint Calls for Service (CFS) Data January 2018 – July 2021

The Rates of Enforcement Related Outcomes are Similar Between Closure and Non-Closure Areas

Warnings Are Issued in the Non-Closure Areas at a Rate About Twice That Observed in the Closure Areas

These Enforcement Related Dispositions Only Represent ~5% of Total Call Load (61 Total CFS - 57 in Non-Closure Areas, 4 in Closure Areas)



Shooting Complaint Calls for Service (CFS) Data January 2018 – July 2021

1,201 Total CFS (2018 to 2021)

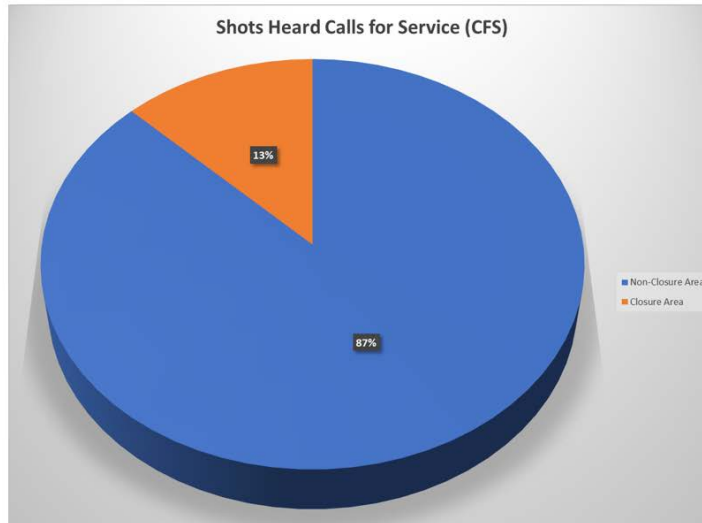
152 (13%) in Closure Areas

1,049 (87%) in Non-Closure Areas

Average CFS per Month / per Year

Closure Area: ~4 / ~43

Non-Closure Area: ~24 / ~314



BOCC Public Hearing

(November 15, 2022)

Public Hearing on Shooting Related Closures:
Expansion of Sugar Loaf Closure Area

This is a PUBLIC SAFETY Issue

Sugar Loaf “Community” Presentation

Speaker: Robert Westby

Status Overview

- **Problem-Unmet Safety Concerns**
- **Solution-Strategic Expansion of 80-52**

80-52 Historical Context

1980. BOCC enacted Resolution 80-52

2005 (circa). Sugar Loaf Citizens for Safety (SLCS) submitted 300 signature petition to BOCC/CPW for initial version of 80-52 expansion. No action taken.

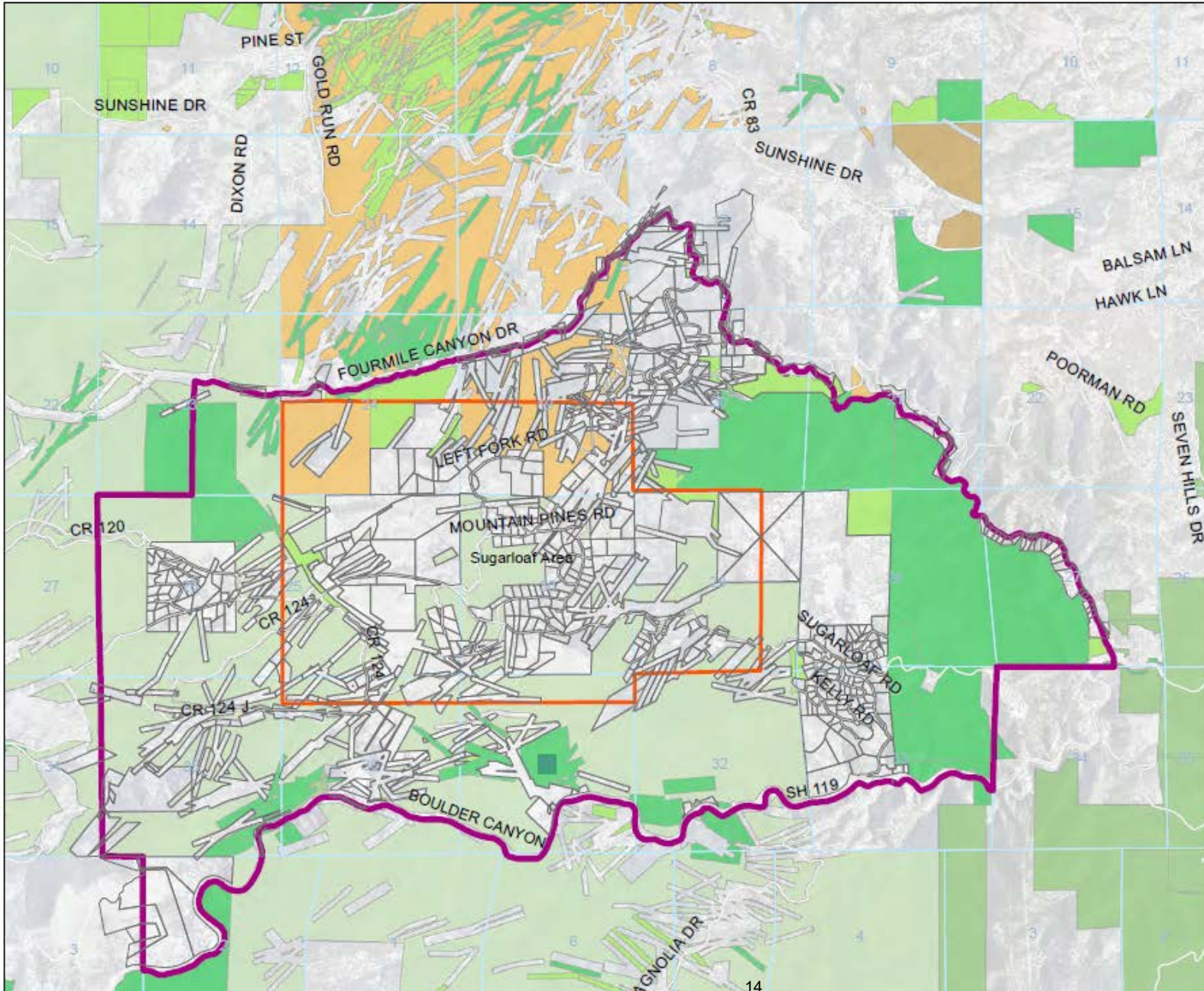
2012(circa). Resident lawsuit filed to mandate citizen requested 80-52 public hearings. District Court found no basis for requiring and provided no ruling on the merits of the case.

2015 (circa). Resident lawsuit filed to include: 1) bows and arrows in the 80-52 definition of “firearms” and 2) a requirement to legally enforce 80-52. Court of Appeals ruled that bows and arrows are included in the 80-52 definition of “firearms”. BOCC adopted Resolution 2015-44 formalizing the Court’s ruling. The Court did not rule on enforcement of 80-52.

2017. Residents’ initial formal request to the BOCC for a public hearing on the Expansion.

Resolution 80-52 Status

- **80-52 is working and functioning as a viable policy solution. Hunting activity in all but the boundary areas has for all practical purposes been eliminated.**
- 80-52 was enabled by state legislation (CRS 30-15-301/2, 1963) to address the identified public safety issues around the discharge of firearms in unincorporated County areas. Areas with a threshold population density of 100 persons/square mile qualify for “no discharge of firearms” protections.
- 80-52 was enacted in 1980 and has yet to be updated. This Expansion offers the BOCC the opportunity to meaningfully update 80-52.
- The County has grown and changed significantly over the last 40 years. There has been significant population and recreation growth; emergence of wildfires, lessons learned by stakeholders, etc.

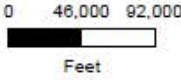


Proposed Sugarloaf Firearm Control Area

Legend

- Proposed Boundary
- Firearms Control Area
- State Land Board
- Boulder County Open Space
- County Open Space
- Conservation Easement
- OSMP Properties
- Federal Lands**
- USFS Land
- BLM Land

Aprox 590 privately owned parcels.
 The average household size for Boulder County is 2.39 (2.4)
 $2.4 * 590 = 1416$



Date: 4/16/2013



Map Talking Points: Expansion Designed to Enhance Enforcement

- **The Expansion provides for clear “on the ground” boundaries (primary roads, Open Space, topographical features, etc.).**
 - Provides all parties (law enforcement, hunters, residents) with easily identifiable legal hunt boundaries.
- **The Expansion adds protection for two high density population areas in 80-52 (Kelly Road/Fire Station #2 area and Swiss Peaks Subdivision).**
- The Expansion adds some 5.0 square miles to 80-52 (includes Open Space). Jeffco has some 100 square miles protected area under a comparable Resolution.
- Sugar Loaf Road (high traffic, primary road) runs completely through 80-52 and the Expansion area.
 - The 2020 County reported traffic count in the SE corner of the Expansion area (entrance to Sugar Loaf Rd) is 3,000 vehicles per day and in the hundreds further up Sugar Loaf Rd.
<https://bouldercounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Compare/index.html?appid=820cc2109948489285ed45a95b925af6>



Residents' "On the Ground" Experience During the Big Game Season

Hunting is now focused near the 80-52 boundaries. The "hot spots" are: LaBelle Rd, Old Town Site Road and Kelly Road/Fire Station #2 area.

What residents observe daily during the Season in the 80-52 and Expansion areas at the above locations.

- Hunters "road hunting" (driving back and forth on area roads)
- Hunters parked and surveilling for game for extended periods of time
- Hunters walking through areas or "hiding from game with firearms"

Recent 80-52 Hunting Activity*

- 2020 hunting activity summary
 - Total Reports = 43 (parked, road hunting, walking)
 - Activity by location (Fire House #2/Kelly Road-7, Old Townsite Road-26, La Belle Road-10)
 - Hunting during school bus transit times-13
- 2021 hunting activity summary
 - Total Reports = 45 (parked, road hunting, walking)
 - Activity by location (Fire House #2/Kelly Road-19, Old Townsite Road-39, La Belle Road-8)
 - Hunting during school bus transit times-22
- 2022 (Big Game Season ongoing) –**hunting activities continue at a high level**
 - Multiple incidents of hunting during school bus transit times.
 - Hunting “hot spots” continue to be Old Town site Rd, La Belle Rd and Kelly Rd/Fire Station #2 areas.
 - Lack of “on the ground” Boundary demarcations continue as primary enforcement issue.

*Summary data is likely capturing only some fraction of the actual hunting activity (pandemic year, Boulder Canyon road construction, limited number residents reporting who “can’t be in all places at all times”).

Priority: School Children Safety



- Sugar Loaf Road is a multiple school bus route
- **Children traveling to/from school bus stops and their homes through heavily forested and mountain terrain are at significant risk. The vision of both hunters and children is obstructed**
- 2017 Incident: A hunter shot and killed a deer on USFS land outside of 80-52 between two groups of elementary school children waiting for the school bus near Fire House #2.
 - Hunter's defense was that he was legally shooting on USFS land.
 - CPW's subsequent stated position was that hunting is legal near bus stops. (What about school children safety?)

School Children Safety (cont.)

- 2017 incident (cont.)
 - If this incident had not occurred outside of 80-52, hunting/discharge of firearms would not have been allowed in the first place.
 - This area would be included in the Expansion which would close USFS land within to discharge of firearms.
- Residents sought BVSD engagement/support of Expansion- BVSD agreed to attend future Public Hearing.



Discharge of Firearms: Proven Wildfire Ignition Source

- The discharge of firearms is a proven wildfire ignition source representing a “clear and present” public safety danger.
- The prevention of wildfires must be a County priority. Whether for hunting or Recreational Sport Shooting, it is the “right thing” for the County to implement further restrictions on the discharge of firearms in the Foothills.

The Expansion is an opportunity to further address wildfire risk by closing additional area to the discharge of firearms.

Summary

The opportunity to remedy the unmet safety needs is the adoption of the Expansion.

- Adds currently qualified unprotected areas
- The Expansion establishes identifiable boundaries needed to facilitate enforcement. Inside these well-defined boundaries, all parties would clearly know that there is no discharge of firearms.
- There would be no justification for any hunting related activities, e.g., you cannot discharge firearms in the Expansion area. This creates a common, unambiguous environment under which all parties would be operating.



Moving Forward: Addressing Enforcement and Compliance a Must

- The potential adoption of the 80-52 Proposed Expansion presents an opportunity for the stakeholders to formally work cooperatively and collaboratively to enhance enforcement and compliance.
- The Sugar Loaf “community” would like to offer its full cooperation in working with the BCSO and CPW in an ongoing “neighborhood watch” type function.
- The Sugar Loaf “community” would be value added working with the BCSO and CPW. We have 50+ residents who are motivated, informed and “stand ready” to support such a collaborative.
- Effective policy decisions should incorporate elements that will help assure effective implementation. Please consider including the incorporation of such an implementation support in your decision.

Final Thought

There is a lesson to be learned from the following Judge's statement when a "lethal sport" is sanctioned to occur by public officials in the presence of school children.

Douglas County Judge Richard Caschette stated in granting a preliminary injunction to stop hunting in a heavily populated area of Douglas County:

"A wrongful death suit is no remedy to a grieving mother."

Raymond Shooting Closure Request

*An appeal to the Boulder County Board
of Commissioners to close areas near
Raymond to recreational sport shooting*

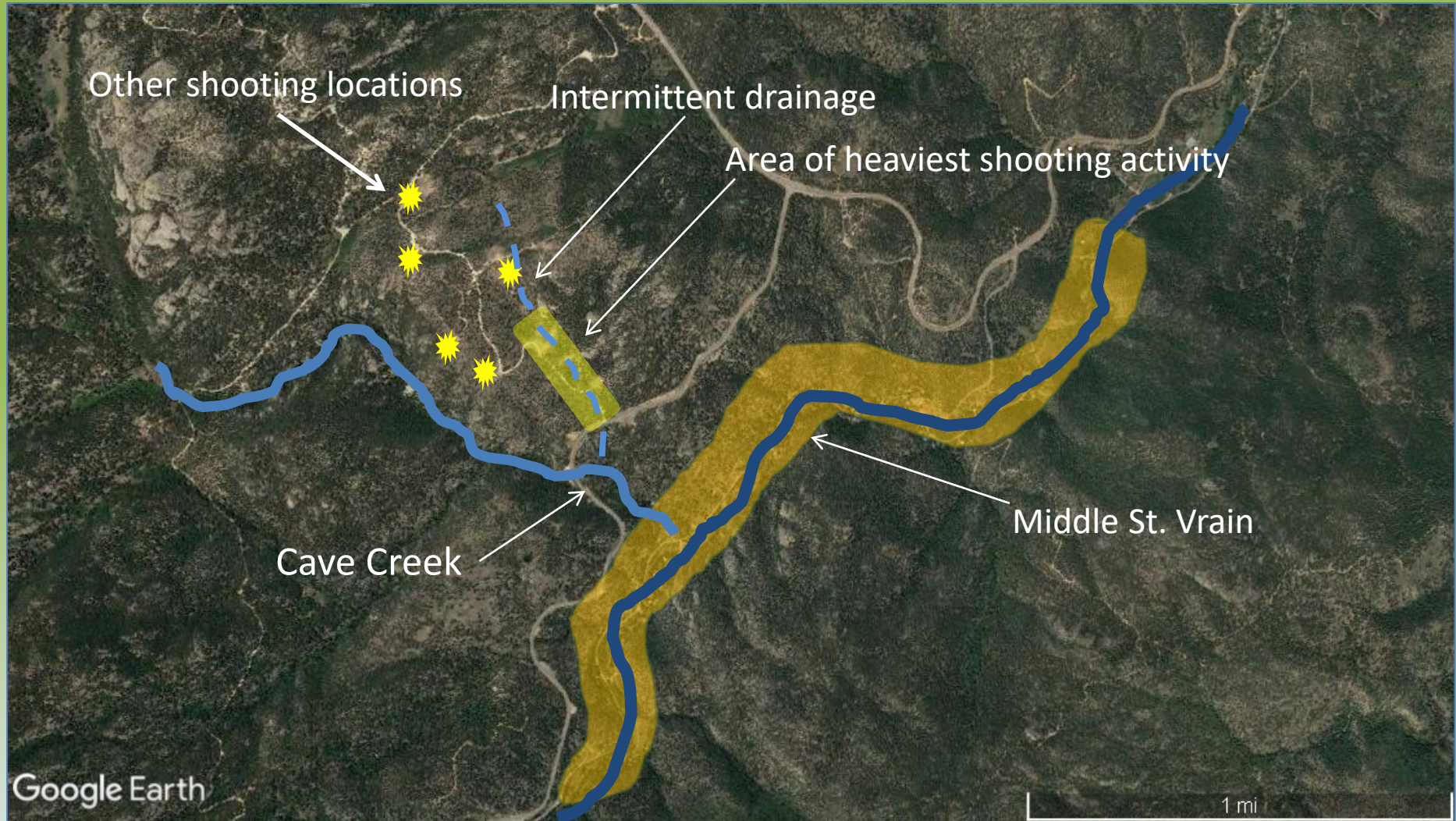
Most residents of Raymond

- Are not “anti-gun”
- Many own firearms and legally hunt
- Recognize that sport shooting is a legitimate recreational activity
- **Recognize that sport shooting must be located in an areas that do not jeopardize public health and safety, and does not result in environmental damage and toxic pollution.**

Justifications for recreational shooting closure Forest Service Road 217 near Raymond/Riverside

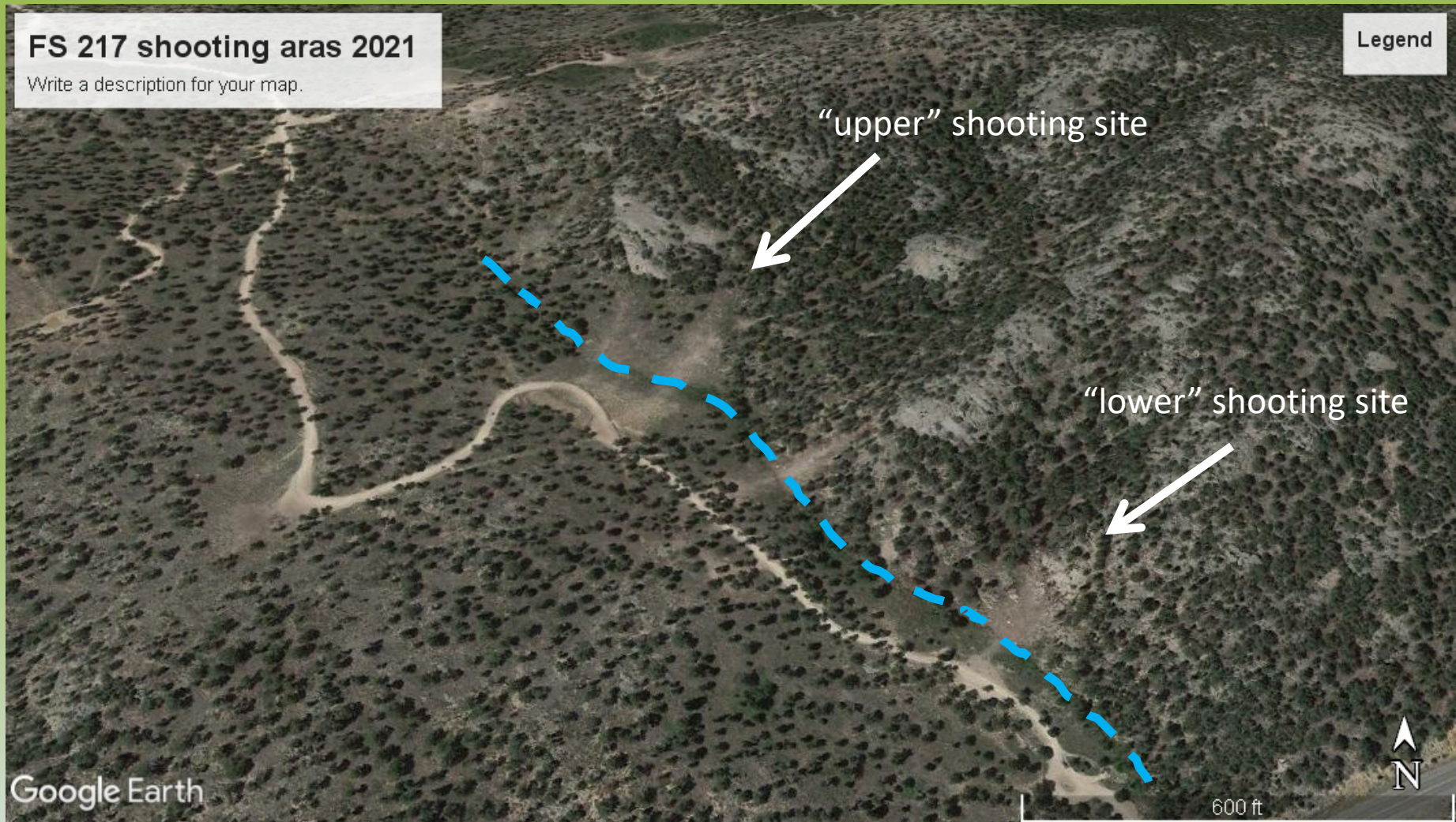
- **Public Health** - environmental and water contamination
- **Public Safety** - too close to populated area, wildfire danger
- **Environmental damage** - destruction of flora and fauna
- **Quality of life** - noise and threat to private property
- **Insufficient USFS oversight and enforcement**

Raymond and vicinity



- **Over 130 residential structures within the Raymond community (orange area)**

Shooting locations nearest to Raymond community (less than 0.4 miles)



Expansion of shooting areas 2014-2021

“Upper” shooting location



“Lower” shooting location



Because of concerns about metals contamination

- Soil testing was done in Fall of 2020
- Water testing was done in Spring 2021

Soil sample locations (fall of 2020)



Locations are approximate

Measured metal concentrations in mg/kg (ppm)

metal	Upper shooting site	Lower shooting site	Sediment (below lower shooting site)	background
lead	3,000	79,000	96	15
copper	160	400	4.9	4
zinc	15	53	9.3	7

- Lead concentration at lower shooting site is over 5000 times background.
- Lead in sediment below lower shooting site is over 6 times background, indicating off-site migration of lead contamination.

Contaminants relative to EPA residential screening levels in mg/kg (ppm)

metal	Upper shooting site	Lower shooting site	EPA residential screening level
lead	3,000	79,000	400
antimony	65	1800	31
arsenic	3.5	9.7	0.68

EPA has established 400 ppm for lead in bare soils in play areas and 1,200 ppm for non-play areas for federally funded projects.

Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP)

If the TCLP extract contains any one of the TC constituents in an amount equal to or exceeding the concentrations specified in 40 CFR 261.24, the waste possesses the characteristic of toxicity and is a hazardous waste.

(<https://www.epa.gov/hw-sw846/sw-846-test-method-1311-toxicity-characteristic-leaching-procedure>)

Lead in leachate at shooting sites in mg/L

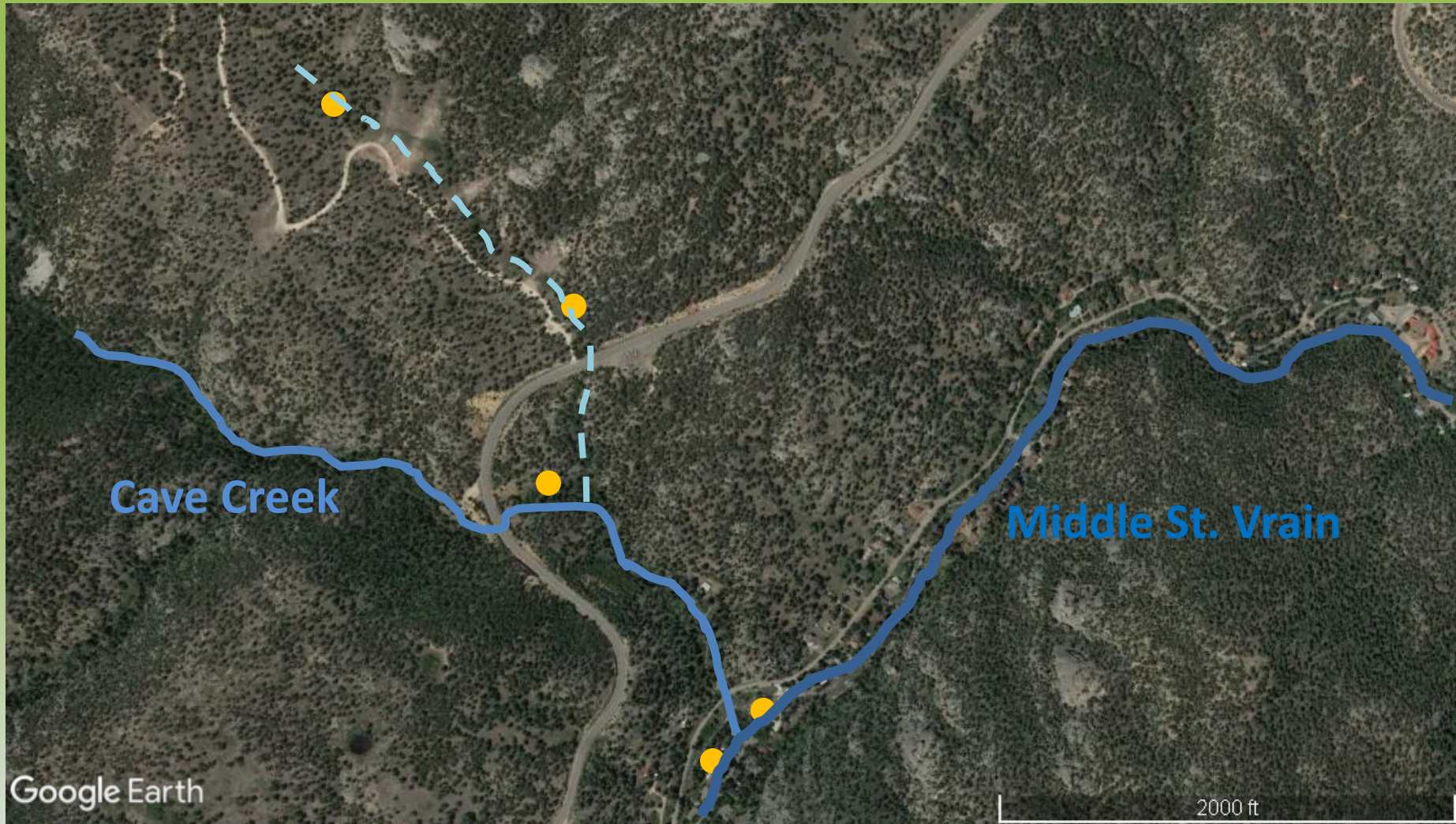
metal	Upper shooting site	Lower shooting site	EPA regulatory level
lead	19	130	5

High lead levels in leachate from soil samples indicates that lead is leaching from the soil and getting into surface and groundwater at the site.

Measured lead levels in soil at and below shooting sites (ppm)

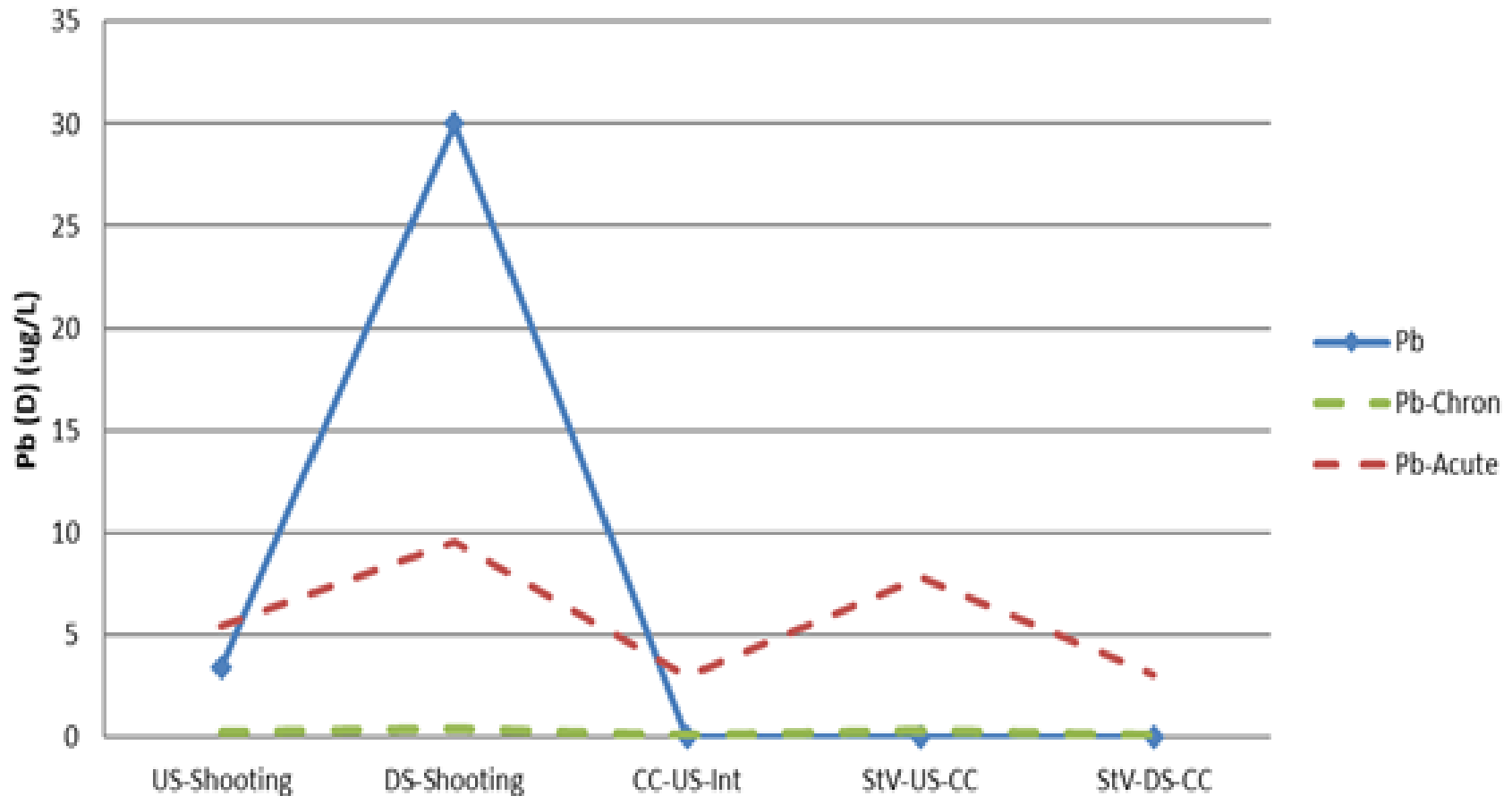


Water sample locations (spring of 2021)



Locations are approximate

Dissolved Lead at All Cave Creek Sites

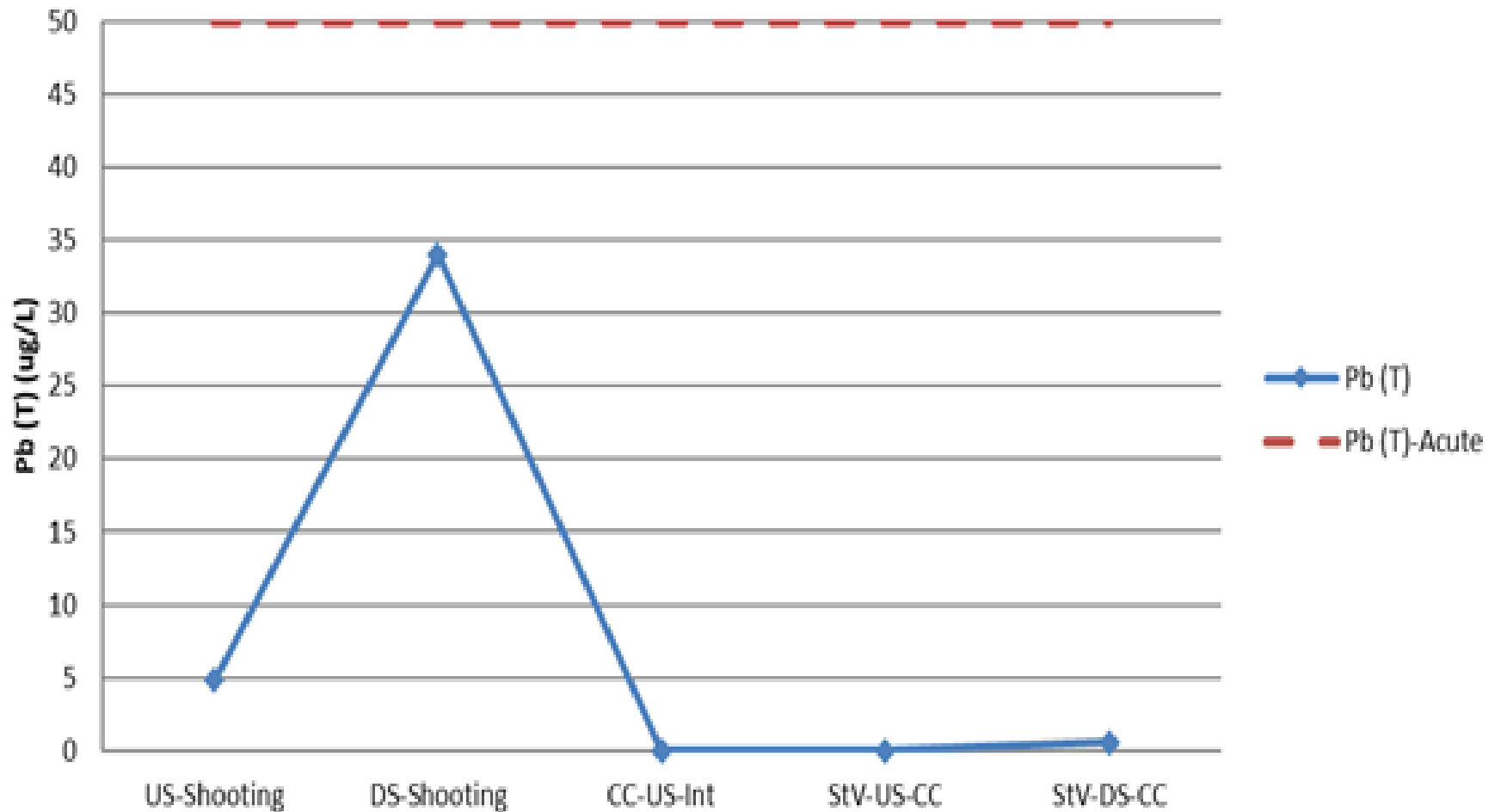


acute and **chronic** standards for lead for this segment of the St. Vrain

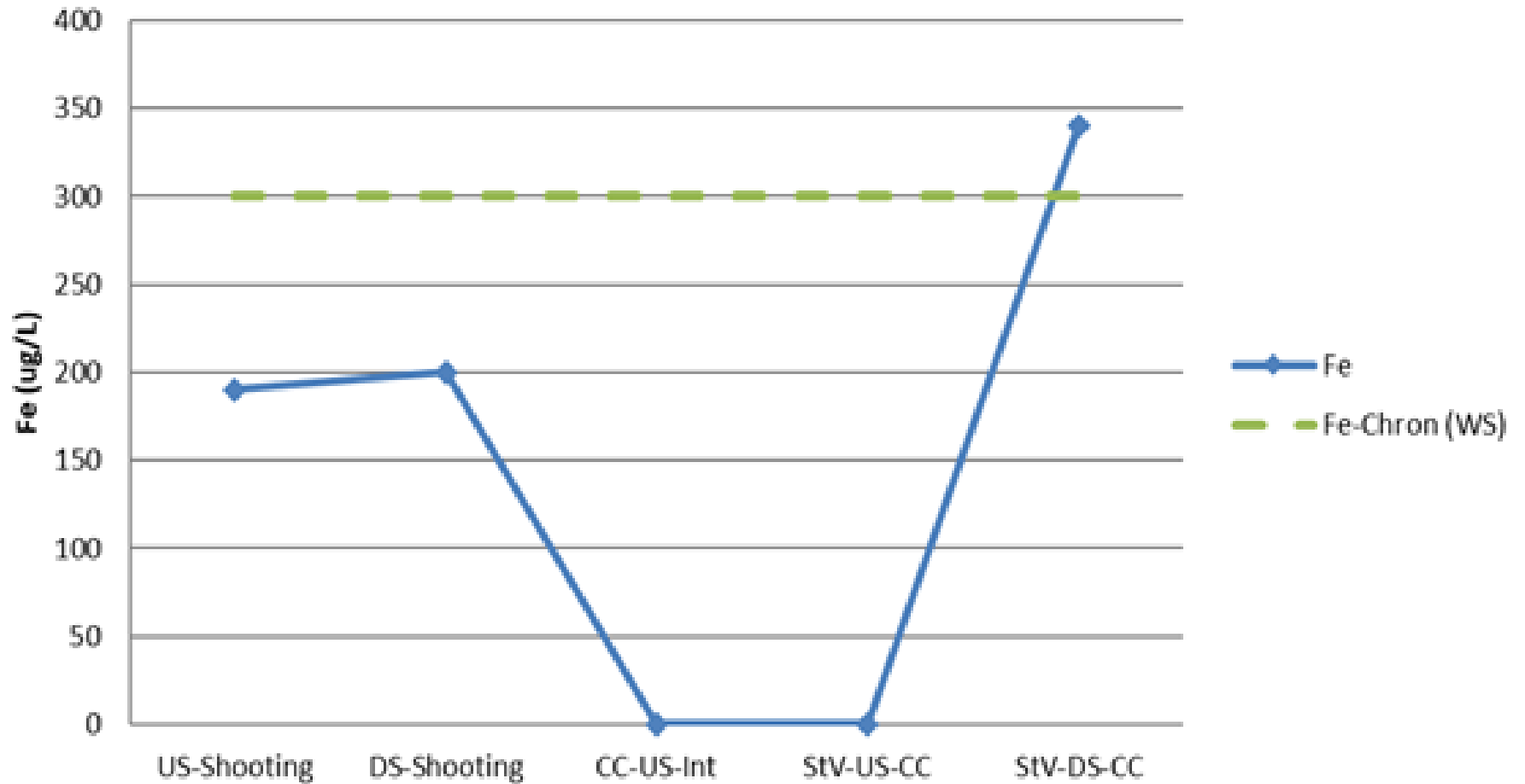
acute criteria are designed to protect aquatic life from short-term exposures to pollutants

chronic criteria are designed to protect aquatic life from exposure to pollutants over long time periods

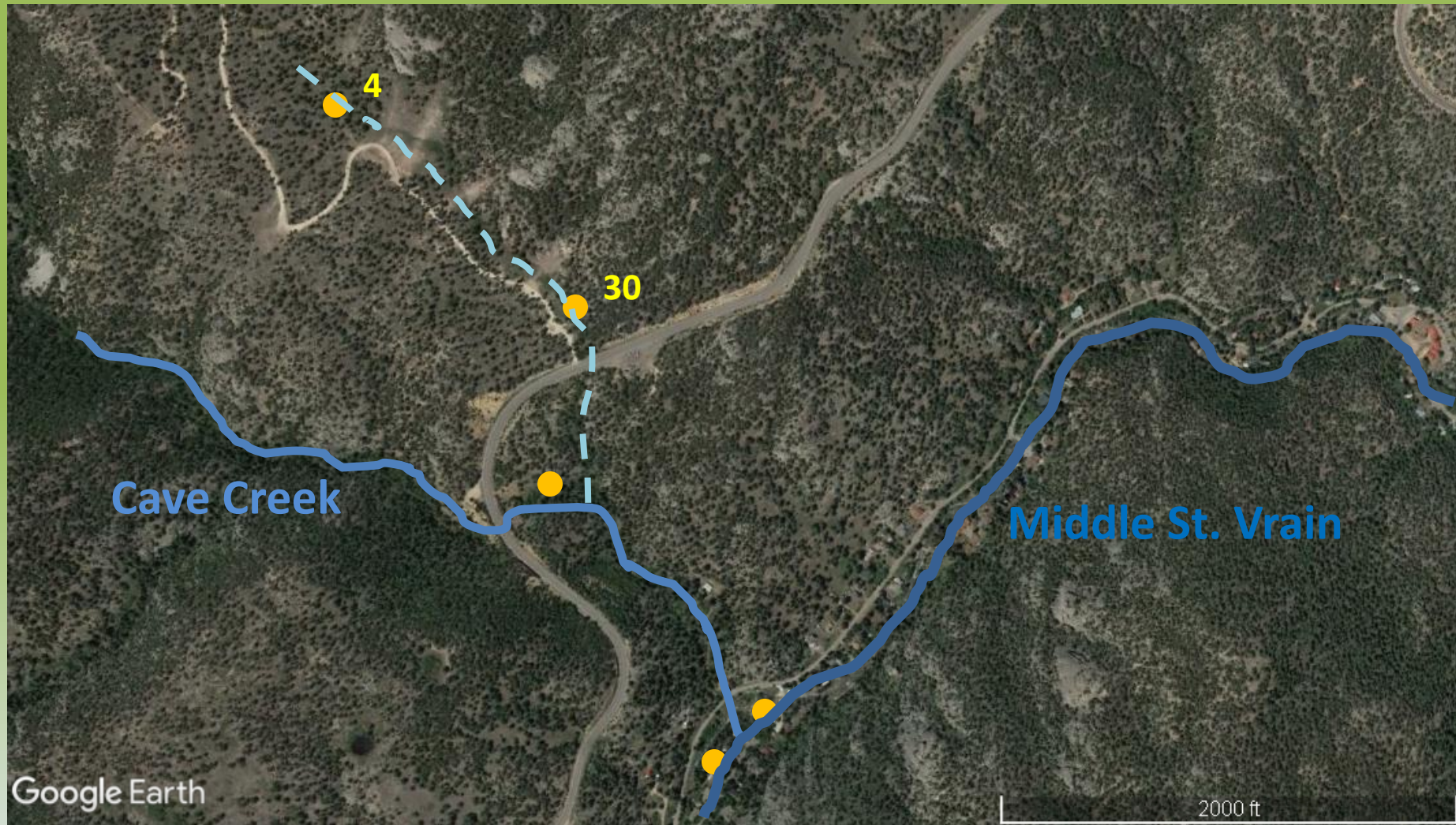
Total Lead at All Cave Creek Sites



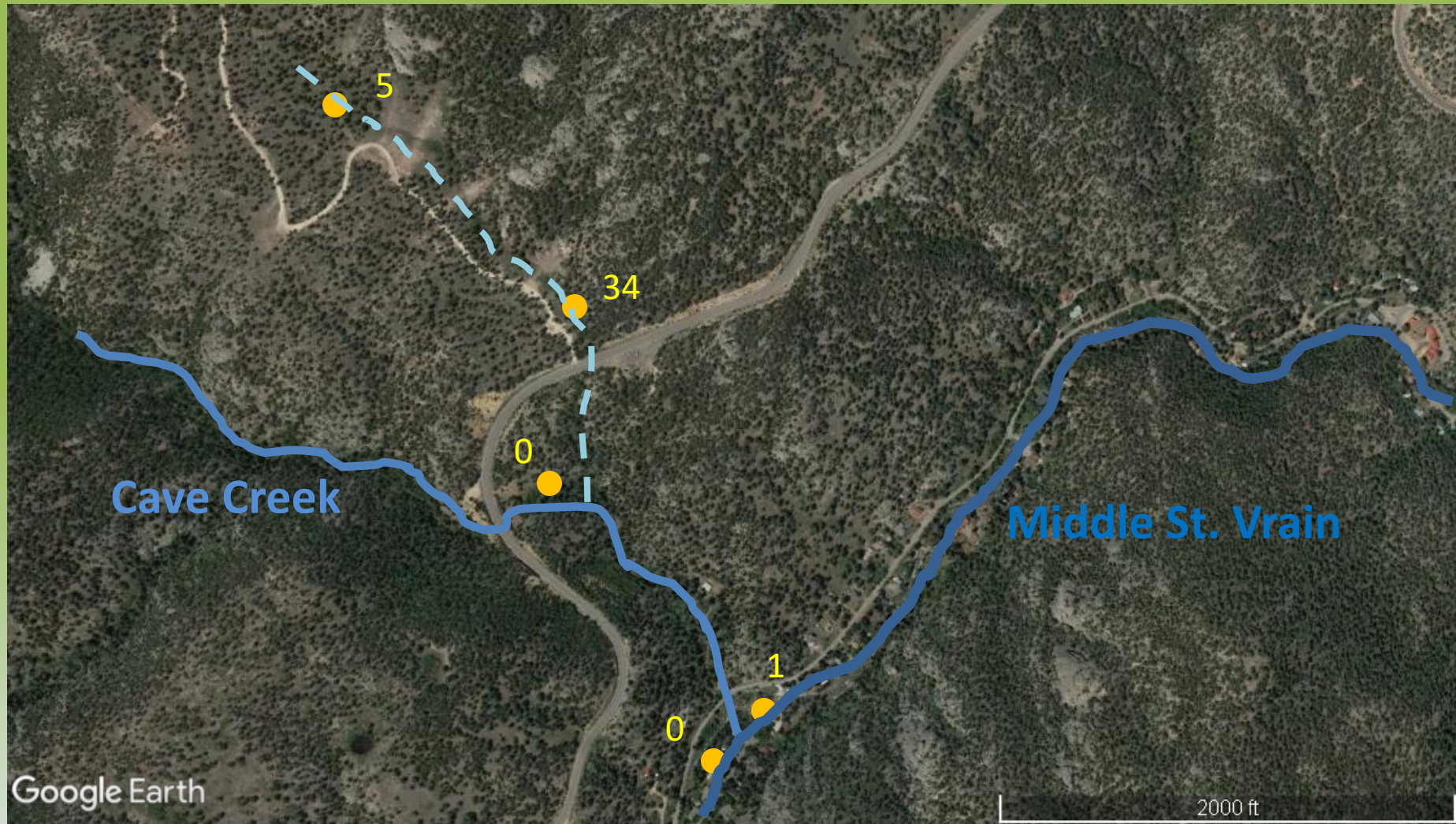
Dissolved Iron at Cave Creek Sites



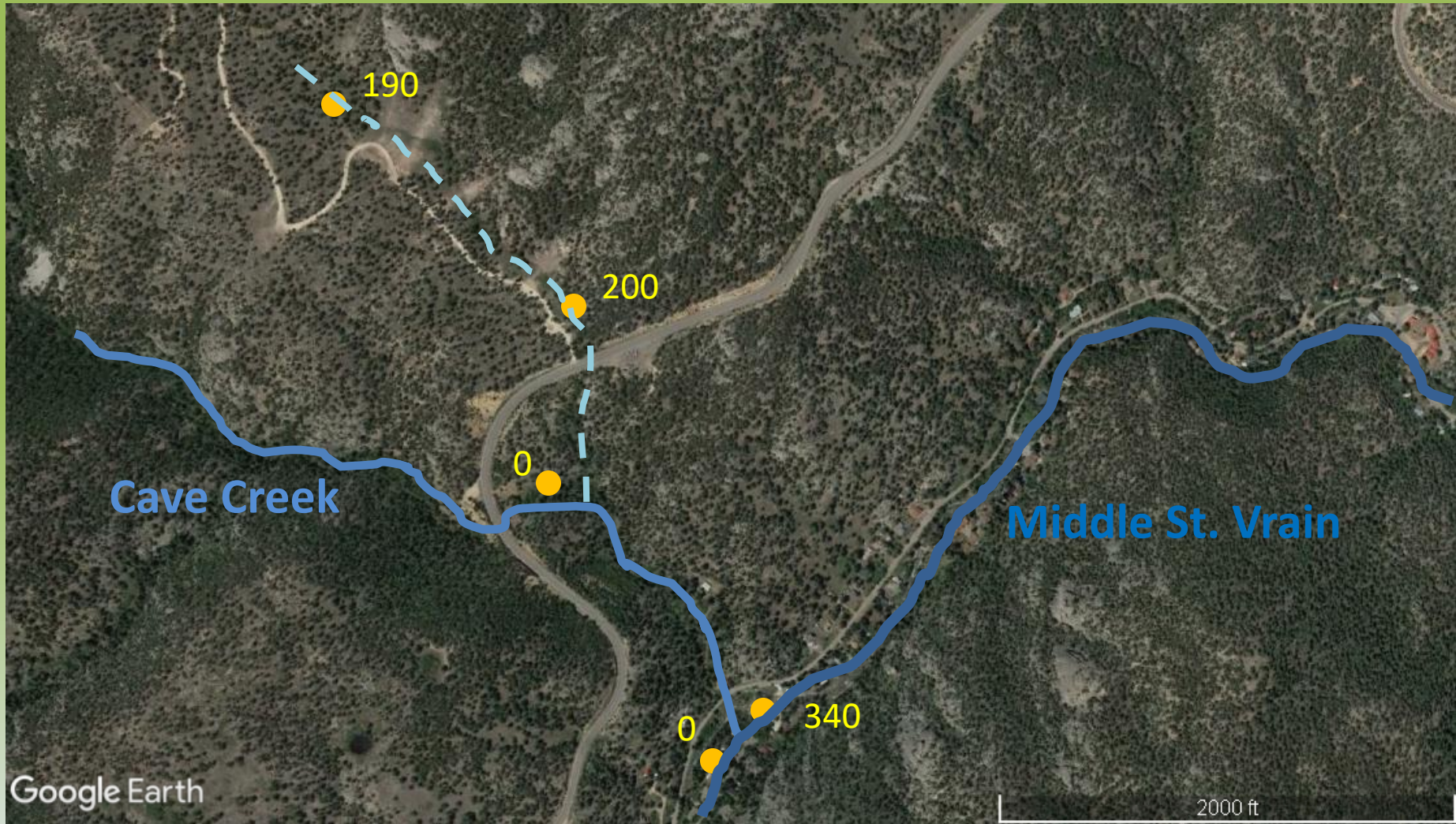
Dissolved lead ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$)



Total lead (ug/L)



Dissolved iron (ug/L)



SUMMARY OF TESTING

- Soil contamination of heavy metals is considerable at the shooting sites; particularly in relation to lead contamination.
- Concentrations of heavy metals in the soils at the shooting areas are notably higher than background values.
- Off-site mobilization of metals is noted in sediment collected in the drainage below the shooting sites.
- **The shooting drainage is contributing metals to the Middle St. Vrain.**
The main constituent of concern downstream is dissolved iron.
- Dissolved and total lead concentrations are locally elevated within the upper shooting drainage. **Some total lead attributed to the shooting drainage is noted in the Middle St. Vrain downstream of Cave Creek.**

Existing Boulder County- USFS shooting closure precedents

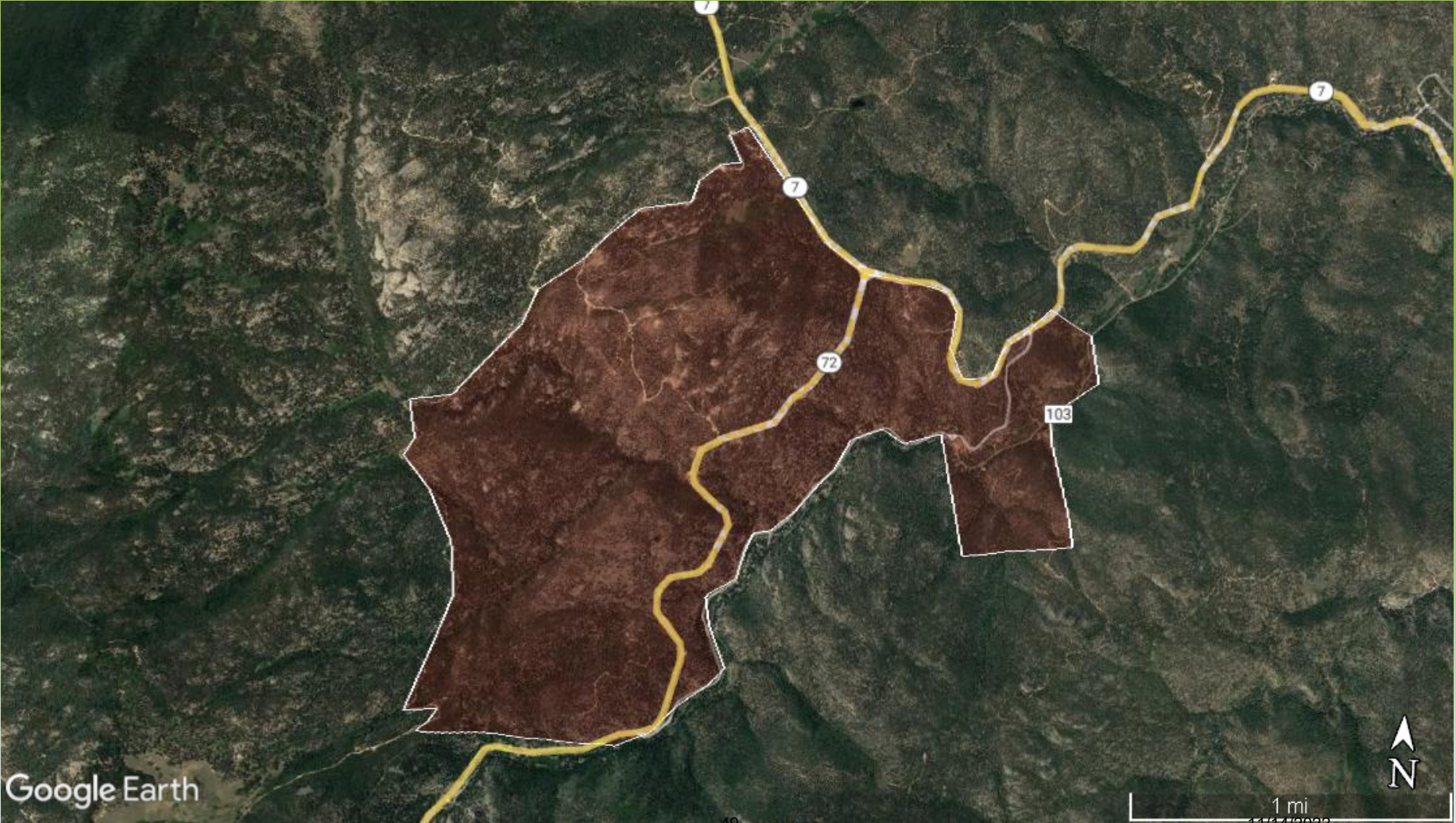
1. James Canyon
2. Left Hand Canyon
3. Mount Alto
4. Sugarloaf
5. Lefthand Canyon OHV
6. West Magnolia
7. Brainard Lake rec. area
8. old Allenspark dump

Other Precedents

In January of 2021 the Larimer County Commissioners, under authority of C.R.S. §30-15-302 implemented a one-year temporary shooting closure on approximately 1800 acres of USFS land near the Crystal Lakes area. Some portions of the closure are over 1.5 miles from the nearest residential properties.

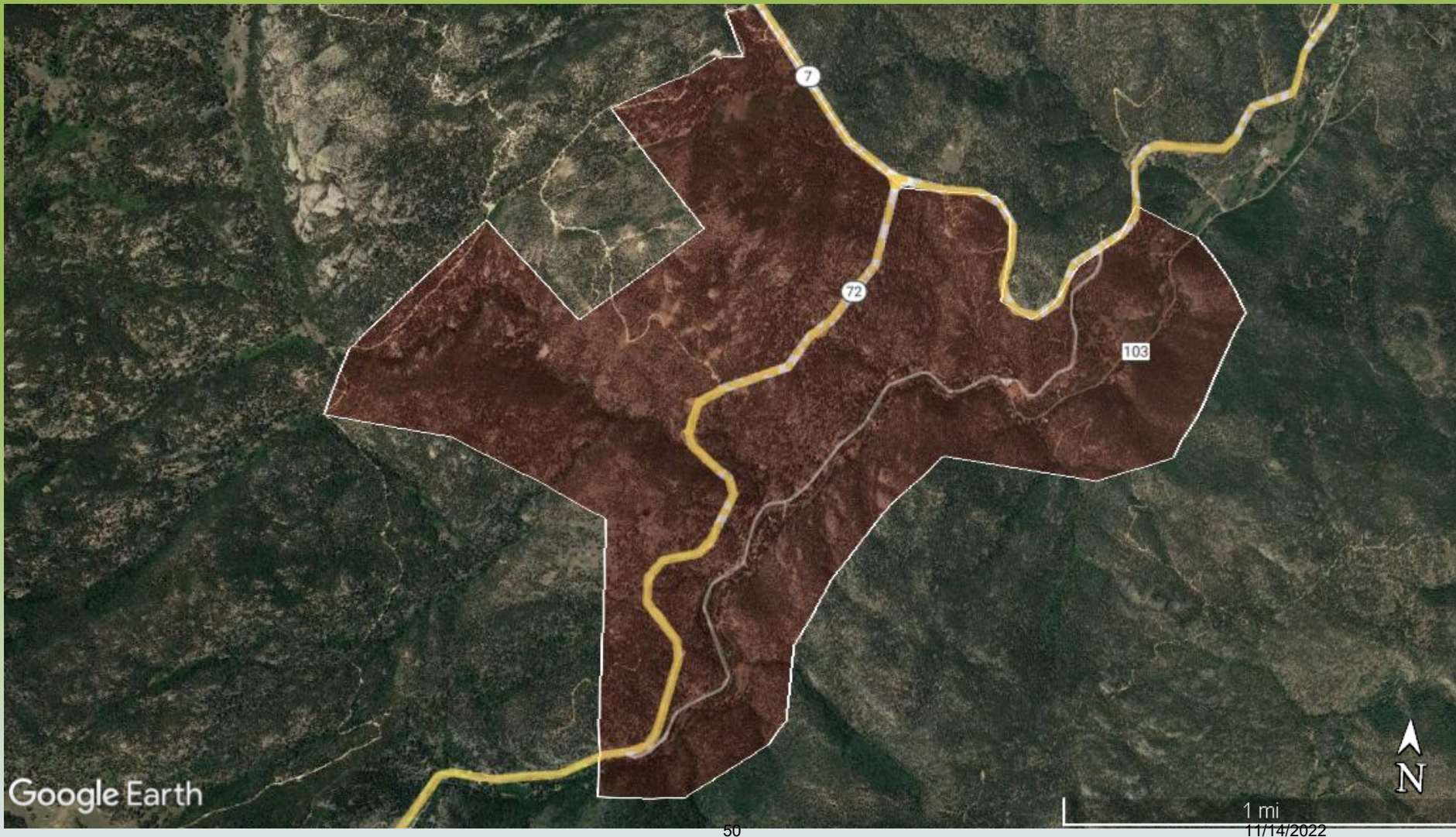
Raymond shooting closure alternative 1

2.1 sq. mi. Population density 106 per sq. mi.



Raymond shooting closure alternative 2

1.87 sq. mi. Population density 119 per sq. mi.





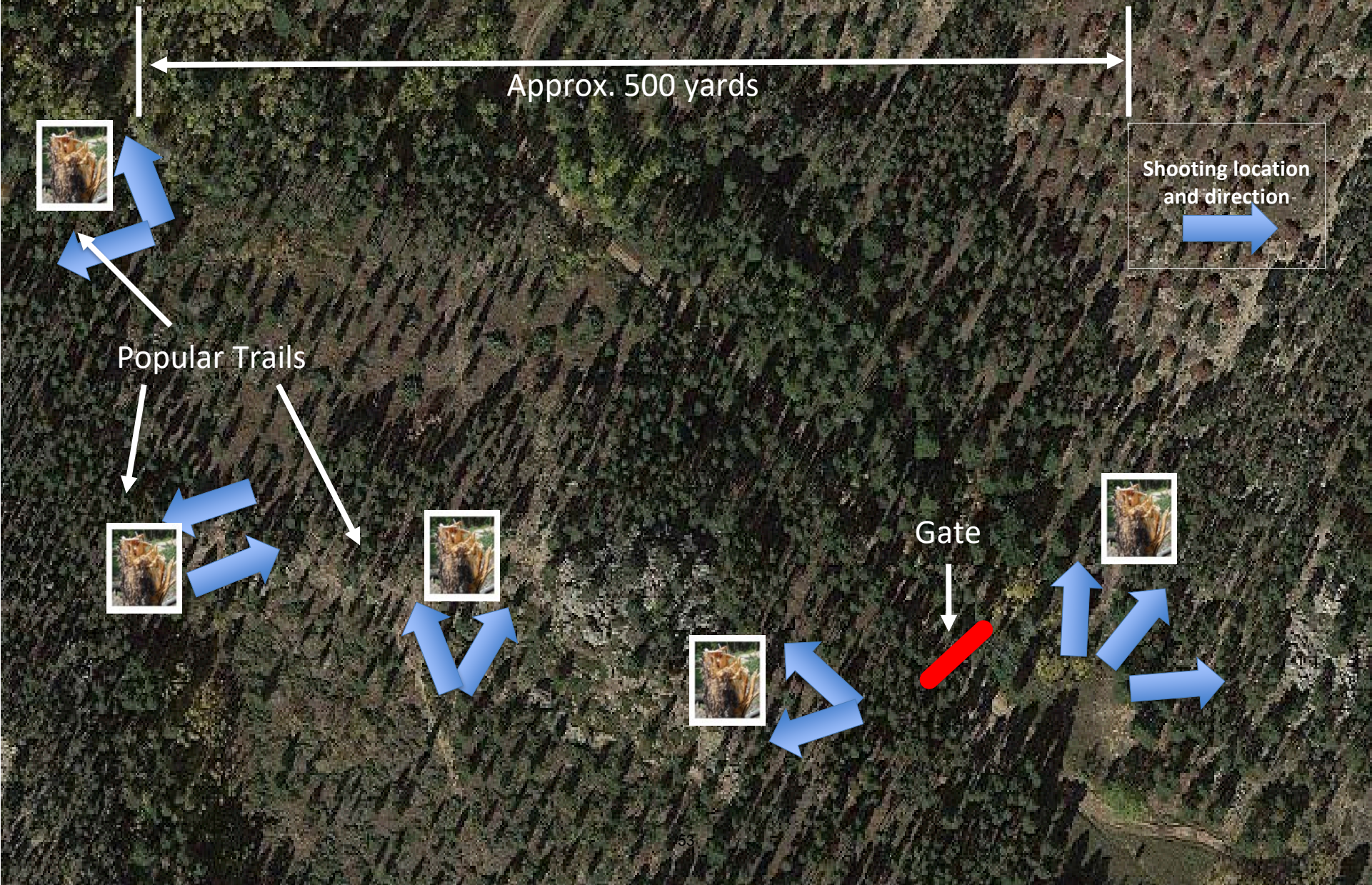
Please shut it down

THANK YOU

*Residents and property owners of Raymond
and Riverside*

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Shooting in FS Road 357 Area



Observed Shooting Behavior

- Shooting across roads and trails
- Shooting within 150 yards of campsites, of parking areas, and of occupied areas.
- Not shooting at targets
- Shooting down trees
- Shooting exploding and incendiary targets
- Not shooting into safe backstops
- Open containers

Trees as Targets



Shooting from Trails



Disposable Lighters as Targets



57

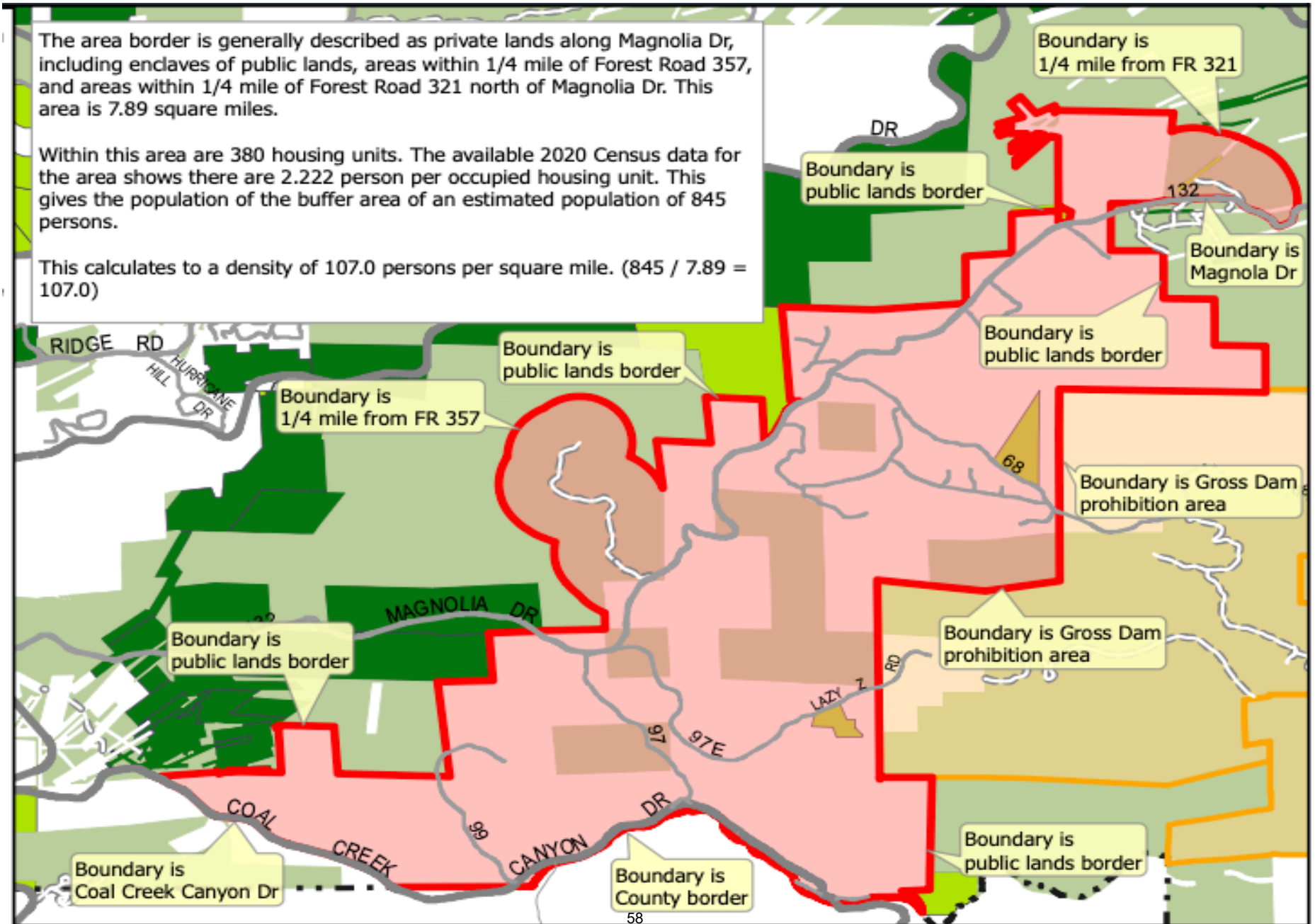


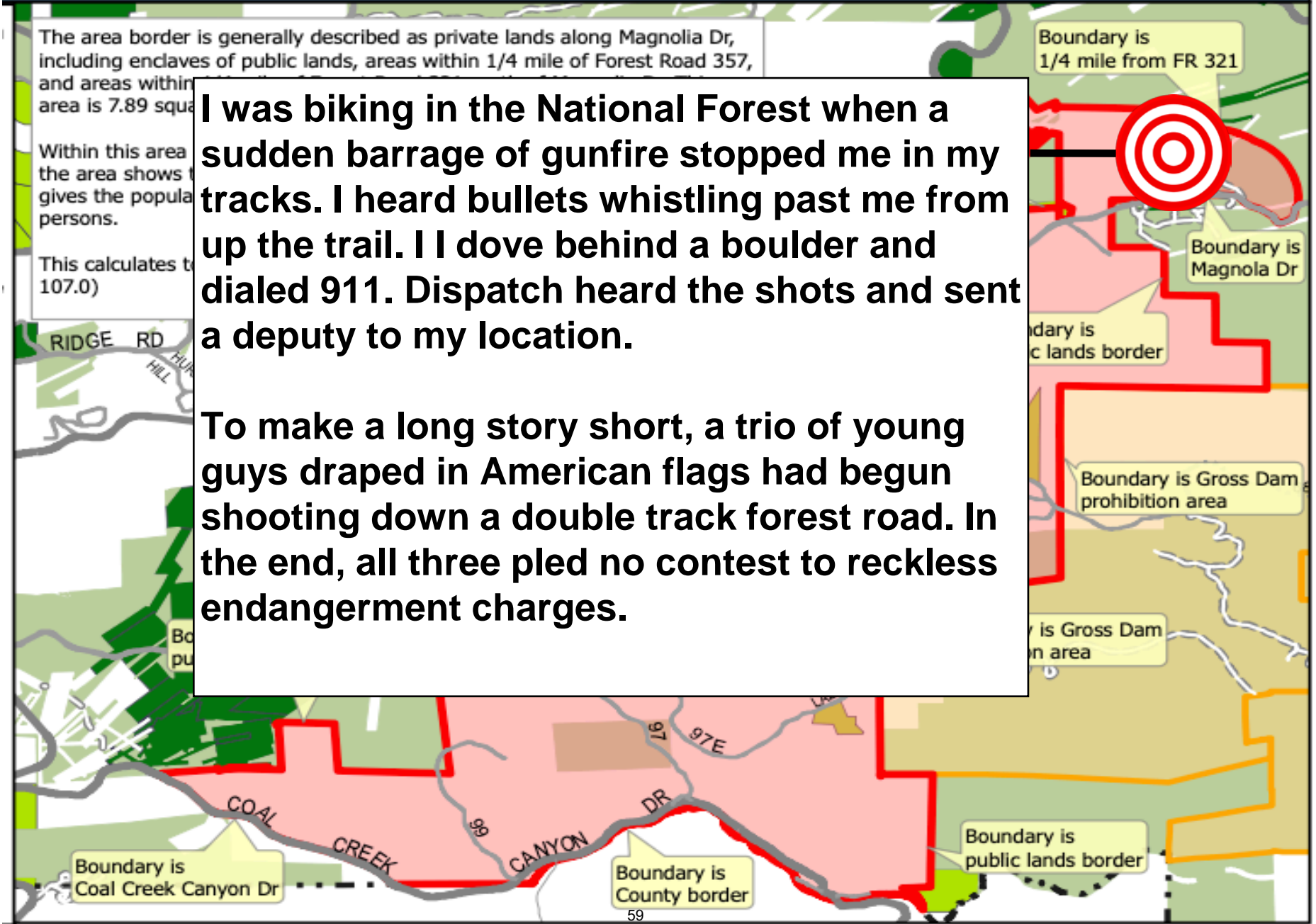
11/14/2022

The area border is generally described as private lands along Magnolia Dr, including enclaves of public lands, areas within 1/4 mile of Forest Road 357, and areas within 1/4 mile of Forest Road 321 north of Magnolia Dr. This area is 7.89 square miles.

Within this area are 380 housing units. The available 2020 Census data for the area shows there are 2.222 person per occupied housing unit. This gives the population of the buffer area of an estimated population of 845 persons.

This calculates to a density of 107.0 persons per square mile. ($845 / 7.89 = 107.0$)





The area border is generally described as private lands along Magnolia Dr, including enclaves of public lands, areas within 1/4 mile of Forest Road 357, and areas within a 7.89 square mile area.

Within this area, the area shows the population of persons.

This calculates to 107.0)

Boundary is 1/4 mile from FR 321

I was biking in the National Forest when a sudden barrage of gunfire stopped me in my tracks. I heard bullets whistling past me from up the trail. I dove behind a boulder and dialed 911. Dispatch heard the shots and sent a deputy to my location.

Boundary is Magnolia Dr

To make a long story short, a trio of young guys draped in American flags had begun shooting down a double track forest road. In the end, all three pled no contest to reckless endangerment charges.

Boundary is public lands border

Boundary is Gross Dam prohibition area

Boundary is Coal Creek Canyon Dr

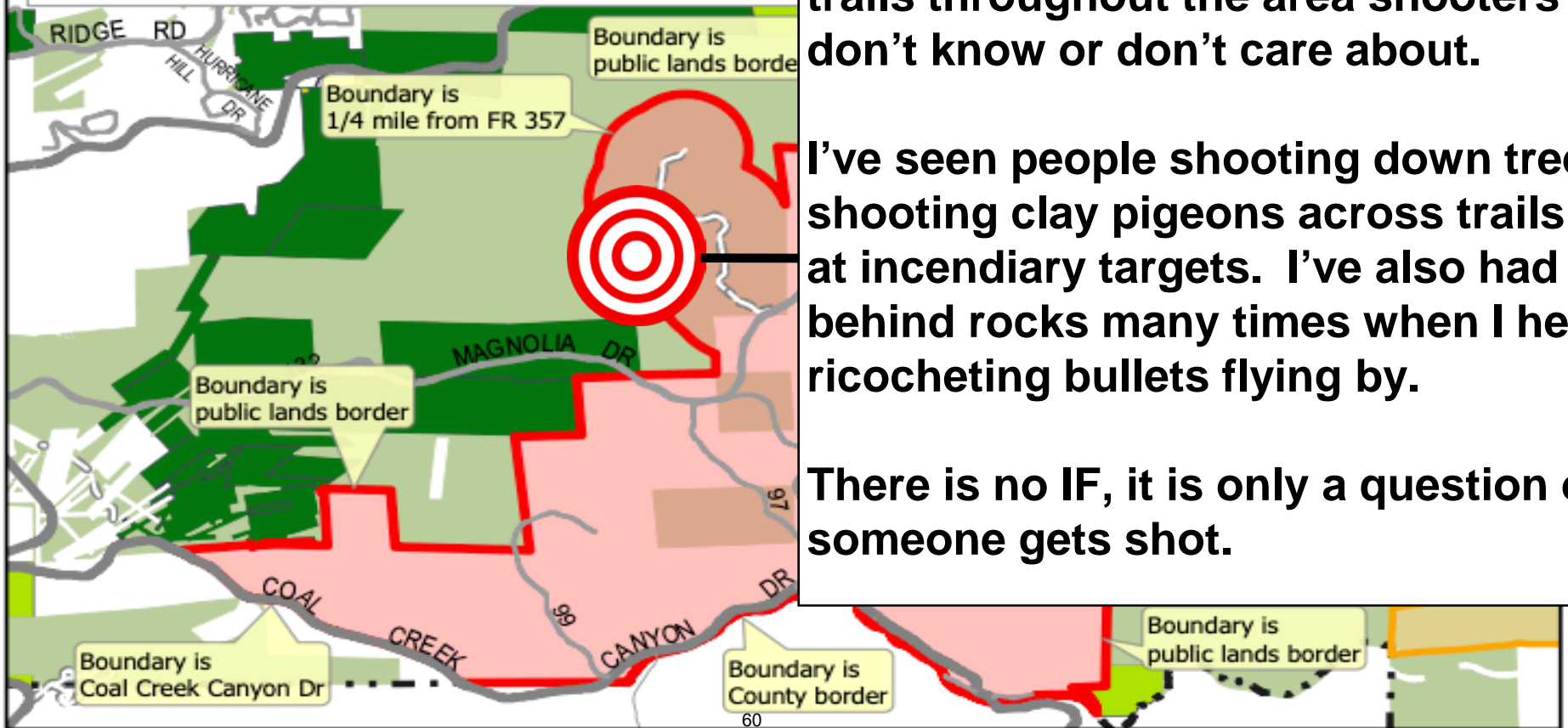
Boundary is County border

Boundary is public lands border

The area border is generally described as private lands along Magnolia Dr, including enclaves of public lands, areas within 1/4 mile of Forest Road 357, and areas within 1/4 mile of Forest Road 321 north of Magnolia Dr. This area is 7.89 square miles.

Within this area are 380 housing units. The available 2020 Census of the area shows there are 2.222 person per occupied housing unit. This gives the population of the buffer area of an estimated population of 845 persons.

This calculates to a density of 107.0 persons per square mile. (845 / 7.89 = 107.0)



There are six different shooting areas in and around FS357, and none of them meet the requirements for safe shooting. There are trails throughout the area shooters either don't know or don't care about.

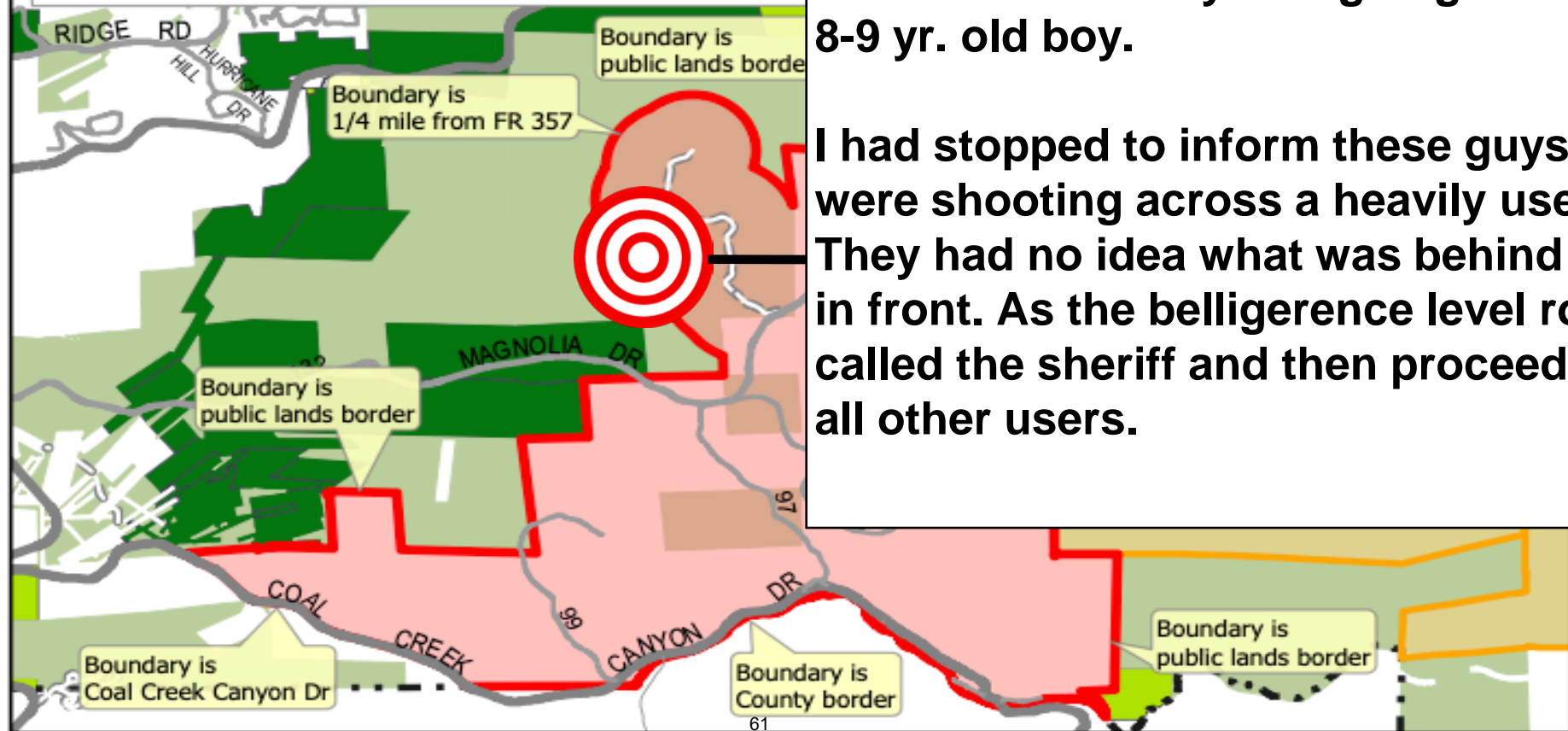
I've seen people shooting down trees, shooting clay pigeons across trails, shooting at incendiary targets. I've also had to dive behind rocks many times when I hear ricocheting bullets flying by.

There is no IF, it is only a question of WHEN someone gets shot.

The area border is generally described as private lands along Magnolia Dr, including enclaves of public lands, areas within 1/4 mile of Forest Road 357, and areas within 1/4 mile of Forest Road 321 north of Magnolia Dr. This area is 7.89 square miles.

Within this area are 380 housing units. The available 2020 Census of the area shows there are 2.222 person per occupied housing unit. This gives the population of the buffer area of an estimated population of 845 persons.

This calculates to a density of 107.0 persons per square mile. (845 / 7.89 = 107.0)



Then there's the lighters in trees near where you live, and the guy at Boys Scout [Trail] that opened a 30 round clip behind me as his buddy was asking where could they [could] shoot. This activity was going on around an 8-9 yr. old boy.

I had stopped to inform these guys that they were shooting across a heavily used trail. They had no idea what was behind them nor in front. As the belligerence level rose, I called the sheriff and then proceeded to warn all other users.

The area border is generally described as private lands along Magnolia Dr, including enclaves of public lands, areas within 1/4 mile of Forest Road 357, and areas within 1/4 mile of Forest Road 321 north of Magnolia Dr. This area is 7.89 square miles.

Within this area are 380 housing units. The available 2020 Census of the area shows there are 2,222 persons per occupied housing unit. This gives the population of the buffer area of an estimated population of 845 persons.

This calculates to a density of 107.0 persons per square mile. (845 / 7.89 = 107.0)



Boundary is 1/4 mile from FR 321

Boundary is public lands border

Boundary is 1/4 mile from FR 357

Boundary is public lands border

Boundary is Coal Creek Canyon Dr

Boundary is County border

Boundary is public lands border

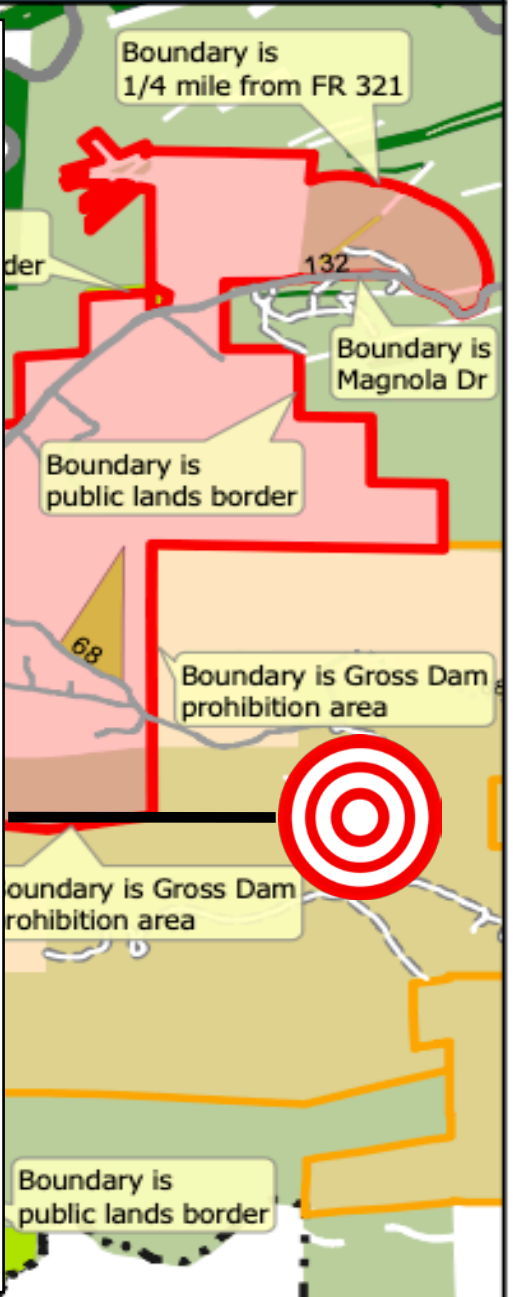
Since April 2013, we continue to be exposed to an increase in dispersed recreational shooting near our home on Magnolia (close to FS357). It is non-stop. We can't hike, we can't ride our mountain bikes on trails since we ran into target shooters while hiking our dogs last fall.

The commissioners needs to act, not talk. They have authority to ban dispersed shooting ... We live in a beautiful area with trails that we can't use because it is unsafe, yet we pay high taxes. Where's the justice in that?

The area including and area area is 7
Within th the area gives the persons.
This calc 107.0)
RIDGE
Bour Coal

Last week as I came across these trees, shooting started near me. Shooters were in the thick woods (not visible to me) near the trail and camp sites at Gross. I yelled very loudly several times as I could not see them and knew they couldn't see me. I received no response after yelling several times. They were close enough that even with ear protection they should have heard me as I yelled when they were not shooting.

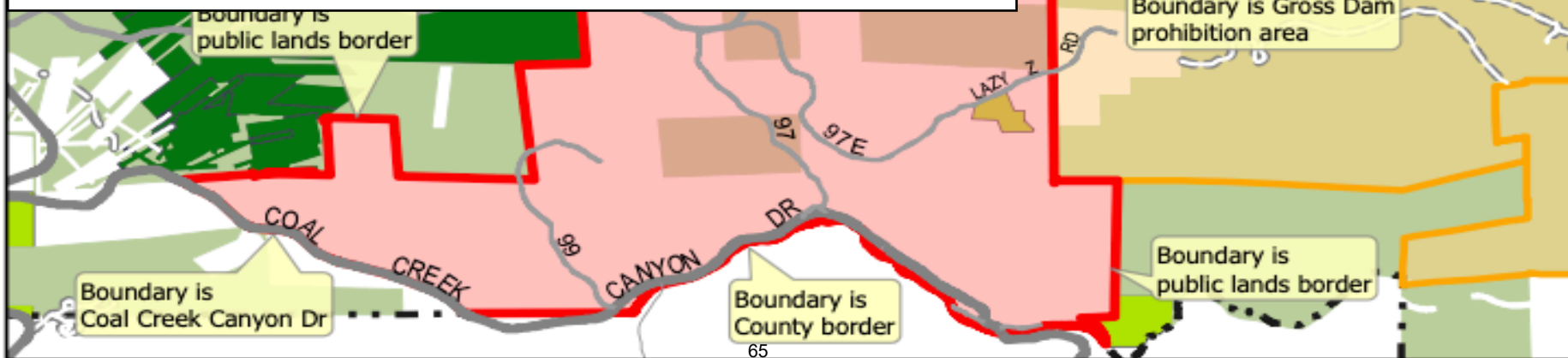
Instead of acknowledging my verbal shouts that a hiker was there they began shooting more rounds faster! It was scary to both myself and my dog. I basically got low to the ground and made a hasty retreat cutting my evening hike in half. I could hear them continue shooting even as it got dark!



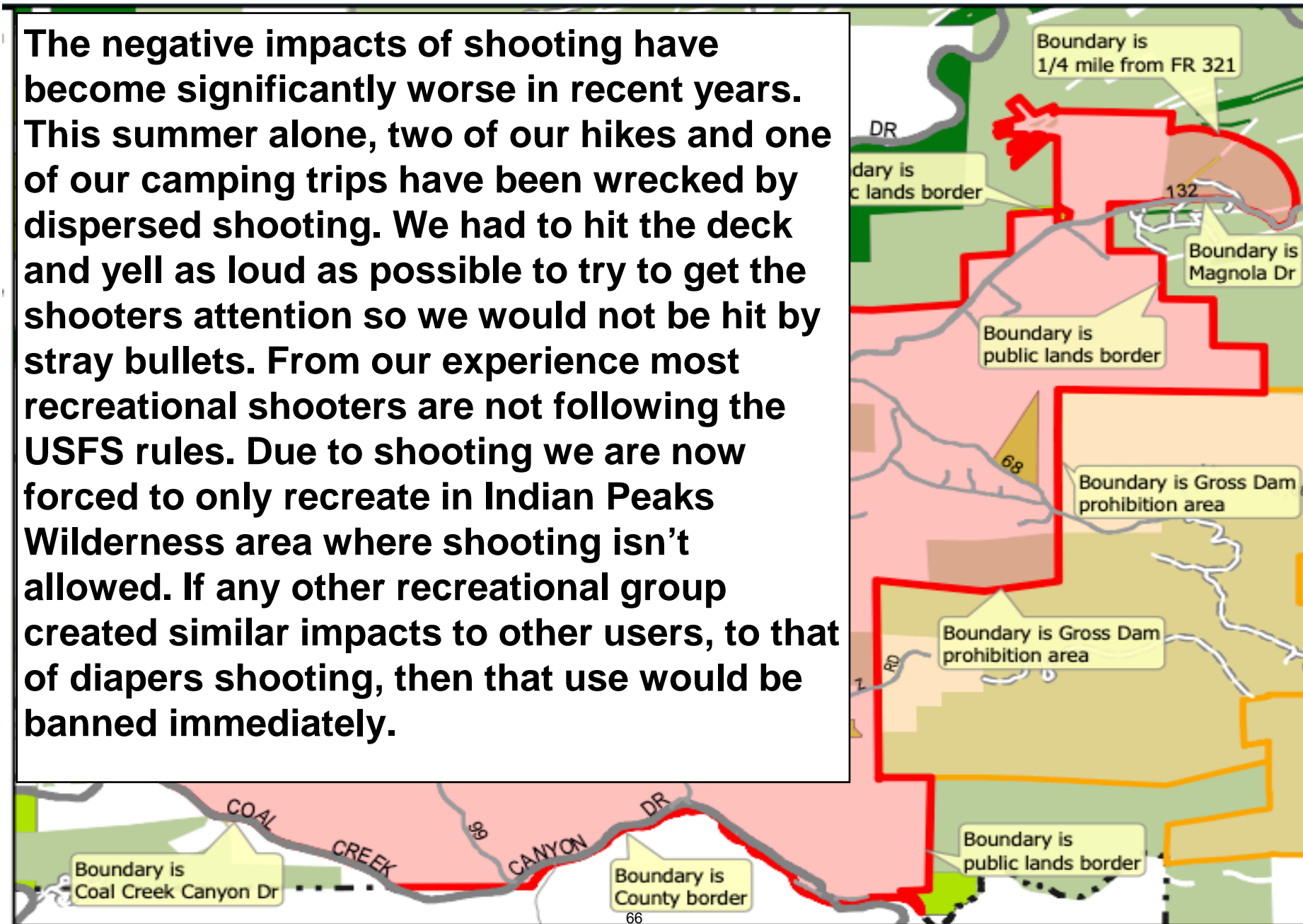
I no longer use any US Forest Service trails near my home for trail riding or on foot where I have resided for the last 34 years due to the proximity of gunfire in multi use areas. Hikers, trail riders, and any one simply trying to enjoy the forest trails are in danger of being caught in the cross fire. The agencies/authorities responsible for providing law enforcement to this area appear to be under resourced and seemingly unable to provide patrol and/or respond promptly to residents' concerns and requests to enforcement of regulations. I truly believe theses a tragedy waiting to happen.



We have been hiking in National Forest areas in Boulder County and have come across extreme shooting. It was very dangerous and won't be long until someone or several people are killed. . . . For those who live in the area, we are at risk of stray bullets because of the volume, frequency and high powered nature of the firearms being used. This has nothing to do with gun ownership, it is the use of firearms, particularly the use of high powered firearms, in populated and high use areas. It won't be long before we have a tragedy.



The negative impacts of shooting have become significantly worse in recent years. This summer alone, two of our hikes and one of our camping trips have been wrecked by dispersed shooting. We had to hit the deck and yell as loud as possible to try to get the shooters attention so we would not be hit by stray bullets. From our experience most recreational shooters are not following the USFS rules. Due to shooting we are now forced to only recreate in Indian Peaks Wilderness area where shooting isn't allowed. If any other recreational group created similar impacts to other users, to that of diapers shooting, then that use would be banned immediately.



Name	Last	General Area/Residence or Business	My question or feedback most closely relates to the following area(s):	Comments, Question or Feedback	Attach File (opt.)	Attach File (opt.)
Ruth	Mangus	Resident	Raymond/Riverside	I have personally had people shooting behind my residence within close proximity to my house. I've heard explosives, fireworks and automatic gunfire on the Miller Rock trail. Hikers converge on this trail from numerous directions. Not only is it disruptive to the wildlife it is dangerous to hikers and local residents. I was hiking near the Bundtz area and was told by a group of Hispanics that the fire ban does not apply to them because it's an American law. They proceeded to charge me with their 4 by 4s cussing you old b**** go f*** yourself. They also removed their license plates from their vehicles so as to hide their identity. These are just an example of the many groups that come up to destroy the forest and use intimidation tactics towards anyone hiking near them.		
William	Ellis	Raymond	Raymond/Riverside	The attached material requesting a hearing and providing photos and justifications for closing areas near Raymond to recreational shooting was originally submitted to the BOCC in November 2021. I am resubmitting it here so that the Commissioners may give it a fresh review prior to the upcoming hearing on November 15.	raymond_shooting_closure_request.pdf	
Paul	Collyer	Riverside	Raymond/Riverside	We have owned property in the Riverside area for approximately 17 years. What used to be a minor inconvenience has now turned into a major noise pollution problem. Holiday weekends are beginning to sound like a warzone, and the quality of life has significantly diminished. All it takes is one stray bullet that can easily reach our neighborhood for serious property damage or worse yet personal injury or even a fatality. The combination of alcohol use and firearms this close to hundreds of residents is an accident waiting to happen. There is certainly a time and place for everything including recreational shooting but this site is way too close to a populated area to continue to be used for this purpose.		
Mark	Franzen	Raymond	Both/All or Shooting Closures in General	Commissioners: my wife and I have owned property in Raymond/Riverside for almost 40 years. Our quality of life and property values are being compromised by recreational shooting in three ways. 1. Continuous noise from firing of guns 2. Impacts on ground water (we are on a well) from degrading ammunition 3. Threats to public safety from errant rounds to nearby residences, hikers and other recreational users PLEASE take action to remove recreational shooting from our neighborhood. Thank you.		
Robert W	Brevig	Longmont	Raymond/Riverside	My wife, Marty and I, bought a cabin in Raymond, ten years ago. We are both now retired and spend a lot of our time at the cabin for peace and relaxation. We enjoy spending time on our deck but at times, especially on weekends, the noise from the shooting of firearms becomes so loud we go inside. Our cabin is located right below the hill, (3174 Riverside Dr.) from where they are shooting. It is like the firing is going right over our heads. Please, please, consider closing this area off. Thanks!		

Arleen Miller Sugarloaf Sugarloaf

I live in Mtn Meadows. Last year a hunter shot and tried to kill a deer on my neighbor's property across the street from my house in the supposedly closed to shooting neighborhood, Resolution 80-52. This hunter endangered my neighbor who happened to be outside her house on her own property. Our neighborhood has people, dogs, and horses always moving about, and hunting in this neighborhood endangers all of us. This resolution isn't being enforced, and therefore needs to be expanded to ensure the safety of the human and pet population in this area. Hunters arrive and shoot close to a school bus stop! Target shooting takes place along the Switzerland Trail and bullets go across the Switzerland Trail endangering hikers, skiers, mountain bikers and wildlife. Target shooters leave bullets and targets all over the place, making a mess and endangering wildlife. Target shooters also can start will fires which endanger the whole neighborhood. PLEASE EXPAND THE no firearm discharge area shooting closures to protect the people and domestic animals for being shot and killed. Thank you for your consideration. Arleen Miller Mountain Meadows

Colleen Sinclair Peewink Sugarloaf

This past spring of 2022 before the fire ban started I was out on my deck watering flowers when I heard this [8838df37](#) high pitched sound repeatedly whizzing past my head. It took me a moment to realize that it was bullets I was [85bb4310](#) hearing. I grabbed my dog, head downstairs and called dispatch. No deputies available. I screamed that there [9966a623](#) was a house where these young men were shooting and eventually it stopped. This has happened twice since [c7549c2f.i](#) when my friends kids were riding bikes on the property and our dogs were out running around. Recreation has [peg.jpg](#) increased significantly on FS Rd 332/Peewink since 2020 and that includes shooters. I have picked up thousands of shell casings all along the road and watched old growth pines shot down. The hillsides are littered with shattered clay pigeons, glass containers, plastic jugs and kitchen plates and bowls. The majority of recreational shooters who come out here do not follow regulations-shooting from the moving vehicles, shooting during fire bans, shooting from the road or immediately next to it, shooting blindly into the woods with no target, among other issues. Our deputies and our FS LEO are stretched too thin to be able to monitor these expansive areas. I'm just not sure what it's going to take to get these areas closed to sport shooting. As I understand it now, it's an expansion of the Boulder Rifle Club. As we all know, this could take years, and in the meantime, the concern for loss of life for people, pets and wildlife continues. I urge Boulder County and the Forest Service to come together and agree on a solution sooner rather than later. Thank you for your attention to this concerning issue in our mountain communities.

The greater good of the Boulder County population is best served by eliminating dispersed shooting in the National Forest west of Raymond/Riverside in Boulder County.

[img_5774.jpeg](#)

Reliable data exists that dispersed shooting activity in forests is one source of ignition for forest fires. Irresponsible shooting activity has a higher incidence of starting a forest fire. Dispersed shooting in the forests of Western Boulder County is unsupervised. Use of improper targets, tracer bullets, exploding targets, and environmental destruction do regularly occur in Western Boulder County. To presume that shooters in the area under consideration for closing are following approved shooting regulations is a mistake, one that could lead to a catastrophic event.

Virtually every year, particularly during level 2 fire restrictions, Raymond residents place calls for enforcement of illegal shooting. They recognize that dispersed shooting west of the community is a potential ignition source of a destructive forest fire. As usually happens the Forest Service can't respond and the Boulder County Sheriff dispatches an officer to the area, who spends quite a bit of time chasing down illegal shooting.

Shooting in the area west of Raymond/Riverside has resulted in extreme environmental damage. Contaminated runoff has been documented and linked to the shooting activities.

Forestry damage to trees is at the level of environmental vandalism, with numerous trees killed and in the process of dying from being severed and pierced by shooters.

Denuded areas by shooters are contributing to accelerated erosion into drainages and the Middle Saint Vrain River, affecting water quality.

The recent forest fires are a reminder of the terrible destruction and hardship to County residents that occur when a forest fire is ignited. Irresponsible dispersed shooting may ignite a wildfire in the National Forest in westerly Boulder County. It is irresponsible to tag problems related to dispersed shooting as a Forest Service

Diane Goodwin Raymond Raymond/Riverside

I have over two dozen photos taken at the Forest Service Road 217 site on 8/29/22. However, the two photo pages I attempted to share far exceeded the 10MB limit for your website. I deleted all of those with shell casings, multiple types of alcohol containers, blue tent of someone "living" at the site, evidence of a fire ring, and the target left at the site.

[boco_out_door_shooting_letters_pages_92017.pdf](#) [forest_service_road_217_photos_82922.pdf](#)

Our family has owned a summer cabin near Raymond, since 1957. The fourth generation of our family continues to enjoy this property 65 years later. During the 20th century, we enlarged the 3-room cabin and added a small indoor bathroom. We added a metal roof. Thus far, in the 21st century, we upgraded the septic system to meet new county standards. In 2021 we became certified members of the BOCO Wildfire Partners program. During decades of summer visits, the roar of the Middle St. Vrain was the overpowering sound of the canyon. However, in 2019, my husband and I experienced the deafening sounds of gunfire. Sitting on the deck, we felt as if we were at a 4th of July fireworks display over the Potomac. On August 29, 2019, we drove to the area where my brothers and I walked around 7/28/2017. I couldn't believe my eyes. The area we had walked only two years earlier, was littered beyond recognition. How can this happen in a public forest area that most of us work very hard to protect for future generations to enjoy? The photos I took that day show evidence of someone "living" on the property, of individuals drinking and shooting a variety of firearms, of destruction of the trees in the forest. My siblings and I have taught our children and grandchildren to leave no trace. In the 21st century we have added fire mitigation to the skills we teach them. I do not believe this site illustrates responsible gun ownership. It should be permanently closed to all outdoor shooting to protect the forest and those individuals who want to enjoy the beauty of the area.

I have grandmother duties and am unable to attend the meeting in person.

Rox A Magnolia

I'd like to voice support for the \$1 million for the public shooting range and would encourage that the amount be increased. As a Nederland resident living off of Magnolia with a young child, I would like to both support others in their interests while having peace of mind that there are not bullets welcome in the area so adjacent to our home and backyard.

Michelle Miller Magnolia Area Magnolia

Please, please implement a shooting closure in the Magnolia area. As an avid hiker and mountain biker, I have had close encounters with target shooters who were carelessly shooting across or very near the trail.

Nicholas Wilson Lower Sugarloaf
Sugarloaf
Road

We live on the edge of a shooting closure block in lower Sugarloaf (on Millionaire Dr W) where we have a high-traffic social trail that we and our community uses daily. There is often ambiguity as to what is under the closure and what isn't, and we along with our neighbors frequently encounter hunters that often venture into the closure area and private property who are very assertive of their right to be there. Many of our neighbors have resorted to wearing high-visibility vests due to their fear of hunters in the area, and we often find trash, arrows, and other evidence of hunting on our private land. We strongly request that the boundaries include areas near households and their connecting trails, our experience with hunters has generally been that they will pursue game past the boundaries and feign ignorance as to their location or lie about the boundaries when called out on it. We would greatly appreciate feeling safe on our nearby trails; Boulder County has ample amounts of open land for hunting, these boundaries need not extend to areas directly next to our homes where walk our dogs and take our family out to daily.

Steve Crowder Raymond/Riverside

My Grandparents purchased a cabin in Raymond in the late 40's. I visited them very often during my childhood. What an extraordinary place! Then my parents purchased a cabin in Raymond in the late 60's. They still own it today and have been going there every year since...53 years so far! Of course, I can't count the number of times I've been up there over the years.

When I first heard gunshots ring through the beautiful valley a few years ago on one of my visits, my folks said that there is a shooting range above, by the road. What??? I exclaimed. In Boulder County??? Anyway, what a terrible disturbance those shots create. An absolutely beautiful community...tranquil, peaceful, a perfect place to relax and get centered again--

only to be thwarted by loud repeating gunshots echoing throughout the valley. What a shame. Property values hurt by this. Traffic increased by those seeking to shoot.

Peaceful Valley up the road from Raymond not so peaceful anymore.

I have nothing against guns, nor shooting them in the proper setting. This is not the proper setting for this kind of noise and disturbance.

Please, please, please...I implore you to put an end to this misery for all of those who live and visit up there. The shooters drive to the range, crack off a few hundred rounds, then drive back to their quiet neighborhood, where shooting is undoubtedly prohibited. Such a deal.

I beg you to stop this if you can. It would be a true victory with many lasting benefits to the communities up there.

Thank you for hearing me. I can't attend the meeting due to work schedule, but truly appreciate this avenue to voice my 2 cents worth on the topic.

Very concerned,
Steve Crowder

Jim	Drevescraft	N Beaver Rd, within Magnolia Firearm Prohibition area	Magnolia	My wife and I live on N Beaver Rd, off of CR99. For 25 years, we have heard thousand upon thousands of gunshots, to include fully automatic fire, coming from public and private lands around us. If we mention this to known shooters, they immediately go fully Second Amendment and continue blasting away. We have children, pets, older people, and other neighbors who are always at risk when hiking or driving in the area. It is time to realize that increasing population density in western Boulder County require new limits on shooting, hunting or not, to protect public safety from gunshots, both for being struck and to avoid fire ignition. It is about time to end the Wild West up here!
Dennis	Whalen	Magnolia Road/Peak to Peak	Magnolia	I am writing to encourage you to restrict shooting as much as possible in the Magnolia Road area. I, and my neighbors, live in this area for the peace and quiet. Having to list to shooting nearly all day every weekend, and often during the week, is simply not compatible with our basic needs. Thanks you for your consideration with this matter. Hunting in areas with significant residential populations makes no sense and creates unnecessary risk. In addition huge growth in outdoor recreational activities only increases the likelihood of an accident which the county and state would be found liable for supporting these conditions. Please adopt the area proposed for closure. Decisions don't get much clearer and easier than this.
Mary	Randall	Sugarloaf	Sugarloaf	
Robert	Foley	Raymond	Other	--I strongly support the shooting closures depicted on the Raymond/Riverside map. I have, on several occasions, hiked up the Cave Creek drainage from Riverside drive and felt quite uncomfortable with the shooting going on above me. I think shooting goes on on both sides of 72 around Cave Creek. It is dangerous. --The area is not supervised well, as very often I hear discharges of large capacity magazines and rapid fire guns which I think are illegal in Colorado.
Alexander	Krasnec	Frequent Hunter	All Areas or Shooting Closures in General	In my opinion there are two primary issues with the proposed firearm discharge restrictions. First, this would prevent legal hunting from occurring on public USFS or BLM land. Hunting is an important tool used in the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and the amount of shooting is minimal during hunting seasons. If there is concern about shooting on public lands it seems it would be more prudent to establish distances from residences where shooting is prohibited as opposed to large swaths of land, which by the way there are already regulations prohibiting discharge of firearms from residences which these property owners should have understood when they chose to live adjacent to public lands. Secondly to the issue of recreational shooting in USFS or BLM lands is largely driven by the lack of established shooting ranges provided to the community. If Boulder County would provide a designated area for recreational shooting, away from people's residences it would greatly reduce the amount of people using these areas in question. Funds can be obtained through the Federal Government's Pittman Robertson grants, which coincidentally are obtained through the sale of firearms and ammunition.

Albert Johnson Raymond Raymond/Riverside

I live near the popular shooting area in the national forest, less than a half mile from my Raymond home. I am a lifetime gun owner and hunter. In fact, I have on occasion used this area to sight in my rifle. However, I strongly recommend and request that this area be closed to shooting of all types because it is totally unsupervised and is used for much more than just sighting in rifles. We have frequently experienced episodes of continuous rapid gunfire that is quite disturbing to our outdoor mountain setting. The last time I went up there to sight in my rifle, I was appalled by the destruction and debris that was left behind by the joy shooters that have frequented the area. I'm also concerned for the safety and environmental aspects of that type of shooting activity. I personally am more than willing to go to a supervised shooting range to sight in my hunting rifle in the future. Please close this serene area to the wonton use of all types of unsupervised shooting activity.

Greg Hine Sugarloaf Sugarloaf

It seems to me that it would be most prudent to extent the closure area farther west on Sugarloaf or at least along and nearby the Switzerland Trail west. Having lived on Sugarloaf for 39 years and thereby witnessed, and no doubt the Forest Service can confirm, there are many campers, mountain bikers, hikers, ATV & motorcycle riders and cross country skiers in the winter on and along the Switzerland Trail west of Sugarloaf. I feel that shooting and such a concentration of these other activities are basically incompatible.

virginia schick magnolia Magnolia

As a long time Boulder county and Magnolia Drive resident of 35 years, I have seen recreational shooting go from occasional to out of control. Please protect Magnolia residents and guests who recreate in our area from shooting. It is too dangerous to have hikers, bikers, runners, horseback riders, etc. amongst the shooting. Someone is going to get killed or injured. Close the Magnolia area to all recreational shooting. Thank you.

Alicia Grayson Magnolia

Dear County Commissioners, I strongly urge you to close the Magnolia area to recreational shooting. It is reckless to have this area remain open to shooters where many people live next to and recreate. It's not a matter if someone will get shot but when. I and other neighbors have had too many close calls with recreational shooters.

Diane Freeman Sugarloaf Sugarloaf
Mountain

I strongly urge you to expand the closure to firearms on Sugarloaf Mountain. I live on Mountain Meadows Road which is already closed to hunters. However, a year ago last spring as I was driving out Mountain Pines Road on a Saturday morning two hunters carrying rifles were walking into the open space area behind houses. I stopped my car and told them it was off limits to shooting. One of them told me to "mind your own business" and proceeded to keep walking towards the trailhead. Then I took my phone out, took pictures of them and their license plate, and that convinced them to go elsewhere. I pointed out there are large signs saying this area is closed to hunters but they had ignored the signs to go turkey hunting. If the entire area from the base of Sugarloaf Road up five miles was closed, we would have fewer of these incidents. Many children ride ponies and walk dogs in this area behind their houses and it would be tragic if a child was killed or shot due to hunters ignoring the rules here. Surely hunters can drive a little farther than eight miles beyond the city of Boulder to enjoy the sport of hunting.

Marcia Barber Sugar Loaf Sugarloaf

Dear Commissioners

The County resolution 80-52 was passed back in 1980 based on population density when it was determined that discharging a hunting rifle in an urban mountain subdivision was too dangerous to the residents due to the fact that a bullet from a hunting rifle can travel over a mile.

Since then population has drastically increased on Sugar Loaf so that the proposed area now meets the original criteria for expanded closure.

In addition the amount of recreationists that we now have on Sugar Loaf including people coming up to use two County Open Spaces Betasso and Sugsr Loaf Mountain, has increased beyond belief.

We have much more traffic including bicyclists on the Sugsr loaf road.

There are several school busses running early morning and late afternoon where children are waiting along the roads for the busses the same time as hunters are out stalking wildlife to kill.

The homes on Sugar Loaf are nestled into the forest and the vast majority of hunters are from out of the area and have no idea where the homes are. sugar Loaf was heavily mined in the past and many homes are built on mining claims with small strips of Forest land in between. Hunters inappropriately hunt on these small parcels of Forest land where their bullets could easily hit a house.

I personally have picked up 12 hunting arrows some on my private property many next to hiking trails. These arrows have razor blade hunting tips which can lacerate g paw or human foot through a sneaker or injure wildlife.

We as a community do a good job of living peacefully with the wildlife the rest of the year then hunters from out of the area come up and drive around in trucks u til they see a deer or bear that is used to people not hassling them and the hunters jump out of their trucks and shoot the animals. This violates the whole theory of fair Chas. It is not hunting it is killing.

Our mountain communities have changed. It is no longer safe to have hunters around homes.

Please use the 80-52 resolution that is already in place to give our communities the protection that we deserve.

We have a healthy population of mountain lions and bears and coyotes that can keep our wildlife populations

Vic Ovenden Eldora Magnolia

Hello. I am a nederland resident and have been hunting the public lands on magnolia for 10 years. I also have friends that come every year from out of state to hunt with me. We have harvested many elk and deer on these lands. This closure would wipe out our source of fresh organic meat that sustains us for the entire year until the next hunting season. We hunt 2nd rifle season and only have one week a year to harvest game. I propose that we compromise and install a no shooting mandate such as targets etc. but not a complete firearms discharge shutdown that would eliminate hunting. Other parts of the county do this and it works well.

[d4e573f1](#)
[6fd64fc4b](#)
[93f0cf22d](#)
[89f8cc.jpe](#)
[g.jpg](#)

Sincerely,
Vic Ovenden

Paul	DeLong	Residence	All Areas or Shooting Closures in General	To reiterate my previous comments, short and sweet... My wife, son, dogs and I have lived in the Magnolia area for close to 30 years now. Like so many others in the area, we recreate in the nearby woods and National Forests and have had several close encounters with people shooting firearms over the years. Some have been quite scary and luckily without injury. But it is only a matter of time as areas like Magnolia have become more popular for those living in communities in the Front Range. We meet people all the time from all over. These areas are much more densely populated and visited these days and people shooting firearms alongside the rest of us is a recipe for disaster. Someone's husband, wife, son, daughter, friend, coworker, beloved pet, etc. is going to get injured if not killed, needlessly. Not to mention the noise pollution firearms introduce to these otherwise fairly serene woods (of course, one can hear the occasional blast and sounds of heavy equipment working on the Gross Dam project). Yes to area shooting closures and to the Boulder Rifle Club expansion project. hear! hear!
Karen	Gutierrez	Unit 29 - magnolia road hunting area	All Areas or Shooting Closures in General	I have paid thousands of dollars to hunt this area (non-resident tags, gear, guns, hotel fees, travel expenses etc) I bring my sons up here from Texas to teach them a different way of hunting. Truly to stack/walk and hunt a prey. Not like Tx where you sit in a stand and put corn out. I am ashamed at the residents in this area to not respect the 3 weeks the hunts pay to hunt. Hunting is necessary to prevent disease and over population of the herds. I feel stronger restriction on the hikers and dog walkers during this time is more of an issue. Don't remove the hunters rights.
John	Campagnoli	Magnolia Road	All Areas or Shooting Closures in General	As a current Boulder County resident who has lived in the mountains west of Boulder for over 40 years I support fully funding the public shooting range at the Boulder Rifle Club in order to protect the public from increasing hazards posed by dispersed shooting in the forest west of Boulder.
Jane	Curtis	About 1/4 mile from FS357	Magnolia	Close all shooting along Magnolia, Forsythe, Lazy Z, etc... It's crazy up here and has been for 8+ years. It's just a matter of time before some yahoo (from down below) kills someone using the multiuse trails THAT ALLOW SHOOTING ALSO. FS357 runs behind our property; we abut up to the forest. nov 13 2022 bcc shooting comments. pdf
Alex	Barber	Sugarloaf- Mountain Pines	Sugarloaf	BOCC adopted Resolution 80-52 in our neighborhood in 1980 to help assure public safety with the discharge of fire arms. This resolution was based on sound logic with a threshold population of 100 persons per square mile. The closure is working well to maintain safety in our immediate neighborhood. However the Sugarloaf community, like all of the county's urban-mountain interface, has changed with significant population and recreation growth the last 40 years. The area for the proposed expansion well exceeds the original threshold population criterion. If it was sound, effective policy policy then, why wouldn't it be now?

Jeremy	Gregory	Boulder County	Sugarloaf	<p>To the point, the No Firearm Discharge Area needs to be expanded and fully enforced. This is being violated and more needs to be done to enforce the law. Trophy killers are disrespectful of wildlife and the residents who call this place home.</p> <p>The expansion of the closure would make the boundaries of the closure much more logical as it would not be piecemeal which currently the hunters use as an excuse to hunt within the current closure saying that they are confused even though the sheriff has listed signs for hunters informing them of the closure areas.</p>
Janet	Pahany	Nederland , CO	Magnolia	<p>This closure would take away a vast area of hunting land. Locals and visitors alike use this as a source of recreation for themselves and teaching their children the art of hunting as well as keeping the elk/deer population in check. Without that, these herds will starve as people continue to build on the land they roam. At some point this will create accidents on roadways, often fatal. In addition, it is my understanding that is designated as part of Roosevelt National Forest, which is public land. I'm confused as to how the county or state have jurisdiction to limit hunting on the land for which it was designated.</p>
Joe	Gutierrez	Texas	All Areas or Shooting Closures in General	<p>We've hunted unit 29 for years. We spend thousands of dollars to come to Colorado to harvest elk and mule deer. Sugarloaf and Magnolia are our main areas we hunt because we know them so well. Target shooting I can understand putting a restriction on but not all shooting. We've spoken to wardens in the area and they welcome all hunters in their national forests to hunt and pass the tradition on to the younger generations. We have two young boys ages 12 and 13 that we are trying to teach what it's like to really hunt. We could go hunt in other states but we'd rather hunt unit 29 in Colorado. Thank you.</p> <p>Joe Gutierrez</p>
Mary	Hill	Sugar Loaf resident	Sugarloaf	<p>My husband and I want to applaud the Boulder County Commissioners, Forest Service and Division of Wildlife for listening to our concerns about the dangers of hunting being allowed in our residential area. We hope you will act today to expand the area on Sugar Loaf that is closed to hunting, to include the adjacent areas with high population density. This will make our Sugar Loaf neighborhoods safer for all of our residents and for the Boulder County recreationists who enjoy Sugar Loaf year round. Thank you! Mary and Bill Hill, 343 Old Townsite Rd., Boulder</p>
Kris	Hess	Boulder County	All Areas or Shooting Closures in General	<p>Please see attached PDF.</p>
Corrie	Beauvineau	Magnolia Area Neighborhood	Magnolia	<p>We are raising our family off Pine Glade and Magnolia and are asking that you please close this area to all shooting, or at the very least, close the areas along Magnolia to shooting when there is a trail that is used for other purposes such as hiking and biking. We have had multiple incidents where we hear shooting and met hunters when we were out hiking and we are now scared to hike in our neighborhood for fear of being shot during hunting season. We request your attention and action in making decisions that will protect all of us and allow folks in the Magnolia area to continue feeling safe when out for a walk. Thank you very much.</p>

[bha_bc_closures_13_nov2022.pdf](#)

Tyler	Ting	Lafayette	Sugarloaf	Colorado already has very few areas in the front range that are open for recreational shooting that should be accessible by the taxpayers, who fund and maintain that land. This proposed shooting prohibition would critically impact one of the few remaining. As a citizen and taxpayer I stand vehemently against this proposition and see it as an infringement of the public's ownership and a misuse of government power.	
Andrew	Currie	west Boulder, bordering foothills	Sugarloaf	As a frequent year round outdoor rec user (hike, mountain bike) on the public lands near and bordering Sugarloaf I enthusiastically support the permanent year round expansion of the No hunting / No firearms discharge including hunting bows area for all the reasons well documented by the proponents of this move including its residents. This is an obvious needed overdue public safety improvement so i humbly request you as our county commissioners to approve this. Thank you.	
Christina	Merrill	Sugarloaf Rd	Sugarloaf	<p>I want to express my gratitude to the Boulder County Commissioners for considering the possibility of an expansion to the current 80-52 boundaries, as well as closing areas in the Magnolia and Raymond/Riverside communities. A longtime Sugarloaf resident, I've seen the amount of hunting/shooting activity increase drastically over the past 30 years, while at the same time the population has steadily grown.</p> <p>Boulder county is no longer a sleepy little hamlet in the wild wild west. The population is growing at a significant rate and those who live, recreate and pay taxes in Boulder County deserve to do so without incurring risk of being shot. This is not an over exaggeration. My property borders the 80-52 expansion and I routinely have hunters with high powered weapons patrolling it's boundaries (often crossing them). Hunting from the roads on which my property cross (both Sugarloaf and Old Town Site are within it's boundaries) is a common occurrence, and though supposedly illegal, the authorities have routinely turned a blind eye to all concerns of safety.</p> <p>Our state has endured unprecedented loss in the form of human-caused wildfires and with the climate crisis, our public and private lands are in serious peril. Gunfire has been a known cause of ignition, both in Boulder County and elsewhere. Even during a countywide fire ban, the discharge of firearms by licensed hunters is permitted, posing a serious risk to us all.</p> <p>As a matter of public safety, I respectfully ask that the commissioners take action on this issue before it is too late.</p>	
Valerie	Solheim	760 mountain meadows rd	All Areas or Shooting Closures in General	<p>I live in Sugar Loaf area, hike daily with my dog, four goats and 4-10 Air BnB guests. My goats wander along the trails. Imagine one being shot at with 4-10 people in close vicinity. It sickens me.</p> <p>Valerie Solheim</p>	<p>e1c18458 trim.a4cb 06904f32 a95151e0 b7e57202 4433aaaf3 bc236436 8f6e9aea1 jpeg.jpg af.mov</p>

Mary DiGennaro Twin Sisters Road Magnolia

Hello Boulder County Commissioners,
I'm asking you to vote to close all dispersed shooting areas along Magnolia Road: FSR 321,357,359 and especially 68J.
68J borders the property of my residence, and the house cannot be seen from the areas where recreational shooting occurs.
In fear of a stray bullet's coming onto our property, I am forced indoors when people are shooting. One of the arguments and attitudes of the recreational shooters is that they have a "right" to shoot in the national forests. We'll what about my right (s) to feel, and be, safe on our private property while outdoors walking the dogs or gardening?
Times have changed and your decision needs to reflect and honor these changes. Shooting in the populated national forests of the front range is a clear danger to those who recreate and live close to the shooting areas, so please vote to close the shooting areas along Magnolia and especially 68J that borders our property.
Mary DiGennaro

Steve Szymanski Twin Sisters Rd near CR68J Magnolia

Dear commissioners, I have owned property and lived on Twin Sisters Rd for the past 32 years. I am writing to implore you to adopt the Discharge Prohibition Areas proposed in Boulder County. The proliferation of camping and shooting in close proximity to my home on and around CR68J has increased greatly over the past decade. I make frequent calls to the sheriff dept and at times make contact with shooters who often have no idea that our home was in or near the path of their shooting. The forest service cannot adequately manage this increase in usage of our forests and the police aren't always clear as to what the rules are when they arrive if they even have the time and resources. Meanwhile, damage to our forests continue to increase from shooting indiscriminately at trees, rocks and easy natural targets. In addition, live trees are being cut for firewood and trash from ammunition rounds and camping are scattered throughout the forest. Not to mention the extremely loud noise of gunfire from small guns to semiautomatic weapons which affects animals and humans. This has all served to degrade our once quieter mountain life-style but most importantly it is now increasingly dangerous to even use the forest trails at times. I strongly encourage you to eliminate dispersed shooting and camping in neighborhood areas like Twin Sisters. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sylvia Vogt Magnolia Magnolia
Drive

I'm writing in strong support of shooting closures on Magnolia. My husband and I are residents in the 6 mile area of Magnolia. Our key reasons and concerns why we request shooting closures:

1. **Safety concerns** in light of density of population and pressure of use: During the pandemic many people have "found" the Magnolia area and adjacent National Forest for recreation. This leads to high use pressure, while at the same time residents' homes are often in very close proximity to the Forest boundary and trails. Recreational shooting thus happens in immediate vicinity far too close to other trail users (locals and visitors) as well as residents' homes. An accident is waiting to happen in this heavily used area.
2. **Wildfire risk**: The area lies in the midst of regular, extremely high winds paths. Add the drought conditions we're all experiencing across the West. Shooting can be like putting a spark to tinder. Especially after the Marshall Fire event, we know how winds and a spark can turn into a catastrophic event. Let's prevent another catastrophic fire by eliminating the risk factor of shooting in the woods.
3. **Noise pollution**: The sound of shooting carries very far up here. It is highly disturbing to hear shots being fired in the neighborhood. It immediately leads to natural somatic reactions in the body (fight, flight or freeze) and raises stress. Even more so for anyone who has experienced traumatic events or served in the military or law enforcement. We also notice that our dogs react strongly each time a shot is fired around us.
4. **Other environmental concerns**: Regularly the shooting leads to trash piling up in the forest. Shells are left behind, as well as different kinds of shattered targets. Besides trees being damaged. We have a responsibility to be better stewards of the land.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and concerns, as you take a decision on shooting closures in the area, as well as funding for a safe shooting range.

Katherine Mann Sugarloaf Sugarloaf

THANK YOU for holding this meeting regarding possible closures to shooting areas in Boulder County.

Clearly residential population expansion in these areas, as well as huge increases in recreational use are major factors that support the current closure decisions. Currently, we risk being shot while just trying to walk on our local public trails.

There are huge areas of this state with very low population density that can accommodate armed hunters.

As has been in evidence, firing weapons in an increasingly dry climate is yet another factor to consider in more dense population areas. The rate of fire spread in our increasingly dry conditions is alarming!!

These clearly defined closures would be a wise decision which will allow County personnel to be better employed as stewards of the land in these areas. Having to respond to myriad calls regarding conflicts with trespassing and/or illegally poaching armed hunters would be lessened as well.

Again, I fully support these closures and thank you for listening to the taxpayers who actually live in these areas.

Steve Spry Tall Timbers/Sugarloaf

Please enact the proposed closure from the start of Sugarloaf Rd, not just to mile marker 5, but all the way to the Peak to Peak highway, including all residential areas.

Sue Thompson Twin Sisters Rd. and Magnolia 68j

I live on Twin Sisters Rd. and walk on 68j or the nearby trails almost daily. I have watched trees being used as targets and my dog being spooked by shots over her head. There is the constant sound of shooting, especially on weekends, disrupting our neighborhood and scaring wildlife. I no longer feel safe in the area and my sister is considering selling her home on Twin Sisters Rd. because of the shooting.

Please consider a no shooting area on and near 68j. Given the number of hikers, bikers and horseback riders in the area, it's inevitable that there eventually will be an accident. -Sue Thompson

Kristin Kelly Sugarloaf

Thank you for addressing this matter of safety for the neighborhood of Sugarloaf. I have been a home owner here for 17 years, I walk my dogs and ride my horses in the small tracts of forest in our neighborhood and it is very scary to see "hunters" (in quotes because my friends who are ethical hunters would never park in a neighborhood and discharge their firearms so close to very obvious private homes) so close to my house. I ask that you please support expanding the closure of our area to hunting and discharging of firearms so that we can feel and BE safe in our own neighborhoods. Please also take steps to ensure that these closures are actively enforced by law enforcement so that they actually work because currently the lack of enforcement and support by our officials makes the current closure not effective enough. Thank you.

Jonathan Miller Mountain Sugarloaf
Meadows
area of
Sugarloaf

As a resident on Sugarloaf for approximately four decades, I am deeply disturbed by the open use of firearms in a residential area. The proposed area of Sugarloaf has grown from an agricultural area many decades ago (the Betasso estate) and a rough mining district (over 100 years ago) to a lovely refuge, a place to live and bring up kids, just outside city limits in Boulder County. It is entirely inappropriate and dangerous to allow the discharge of firearms in a residential area.

Two days ago, Saturday, November 12, 2022, we heard loud gunfire for a couple of hours. The person or persons discharged many dozens of shots. It was close, loud enough to make us jumpy. Could you fire weapons in any other upscale suburban area? Homes near ours have recently sold for an average of \$750,000, an amount which a local top real estate executive (ReMax) assured me is the average price in this area. Some houses sell for \$2 million. Why would it be OK to shoot guns where peaceful people live quiet lives in fine homes in close proximity? It's not.

Last year, a new neighbor thought it was OK to stand on another neighbor's yard, where young children live, and shoot at a deer across the street on the property of a disabled, elderly lady who has a small dog. When the sheriff was called by all the irate neighbors, the deputy did not know it was illegal! The hunter only wounded the deer, and he eventually killed it on another neighbor's property, using a knife. This is wrong.

There are tiny patches of National Forest between some of the houses. A bullet can travel over a mile. This is incredibly dangerous. This neighborhood has elderly people, young working families with school-age kids, and pets, including dogs and many horses. One of my horses is deer-colored. We are afraid to go out, to ride our horses and to walk our dogs when people are shooting amongst these million dollar houses. It's only a matter of time before a person and/or pet is killed or injured.

Shooting when this was a mining settlement, a three day ride from Boulder, made sense. It no longer makes any sense. It's time for Boulder County to join the twenty-first century and outlaw the use of firearms in residential communities, even if near the woods, for safety.

KENNETH ARMFIELD Magnolia Magnolia
Road

We have a house at 3900 Magnolia Road, about 350 yards from a popular shooting area on Forest Road 321, at mile 4412 Magnolia Road.

The shooting noise is a nuisance and I also fear for my and my family's safety own safety to go hiking in the national forest near our house. Or from a stray bullet.

Our house is only 350 yards away from this shooting area, but the NRA website says that the maximum range of a pistol is 1,000 - 2,000 yards, and the maximum range of a rifle is 1,500 - 4,500 yards.

That is, our house and the surrounding forest is very much within the range of these shooters.

Please make them stop shooting there. They can go shoot elsewhere, but we cannot move our house elsewhere, and the sound and the danger from this public nuisance deeply penetrates into our property.

Charles	Chadakoff	58 old post office rd, Sugarloaf	Sugarloaf	<p>I am a 15 year resident of the Sugarloaf Community, and a hunter myself.</p> <p>I find it troubling that my residential community, although a part of Roosevelt NF, still has active hunting amongst the homes of the neighborhood.</p> <p>I have often found hunters, and evidence of kills, in already prohibited areas. When approached, these persons are often defensive and threatening.</p> <p>I support the expansion of these prohibited hunting areas.</p>
John	Parker	Near Pinecliffe	Magnolia	<p>Charles Chadakoff</p> <p>The closure appears to make continued use of my property for target shooting illegal. My North property boundary is USFS land, and I enjoy being able to shoot from my land towards USFS land. Our neighborhood (North Beaver Road) is not overly crowded (5 acres minimum lot size) -- who is calling for this change? I believe most or all of my neighbors agree that the way it is now is fine. The biggest problem target shooters for us are actually in Gilpin County (across S Boulder Creek/US72 from us).</p>
James	Henry	Riverside Dr. Raymond CO	Riverside Dr. Raymond CO	<p>The greater good of the Boulder County population is best served by eliminating dispersed shooting in the National Forest west of Raymond/Riverside in Boulder County. Reliable data exists that dispersed shooting activity in forests is one source of ignition for forest fires. Irresponsible shooting activity has a higher incidence of starting a forest fire. Dispersed shooting in the forests of Western Boulder County is unsupervised. Use of improper targets, tracer bullets, exploding targets, and environmental destruction do regularly occur in Western Boulder County. To presume that shooters in the area under consideration for closing are following approved shooting regulations is a mistake, one that could lead to a catastrophic event. Virtually every year, particularly during level 2 fire restrictions, Raymond residents place calls for enforcement of illegal shooting. They recognize that dispersed shooting west of the community is a potential ignition source of a destructive forest fire. As usually happens the Forest Service can't respond and the Boulder County Sheriff dispatches an officer to the area, who spends quite a bit of time chasing down illegal shooting. Shooting in the area west of Raymond/Riverside has resulted in extreme environmental damage. Contaminated runoff has been documented and linked to the shooting activities. Forestry damage to trees is at the level of environmental vandalism, with numerous trees killed and in the process of dying from being severed and pierced by shooters. Denuded areas by shooters are contributing to accelerated erosion into drainages and the Middle Saint Vrain River, affecting water quality. The recent forest fires are a reminder of the terrible destruction and hardship to County residents that occur when a forest fire is ignited. Irresponsible dispersed shooting may ignite a wildfire in the National Forest in westerly Boulder County. It is irresponsible to tag problems related to dispersed shooting as a Forest Service problem alone. The consequences of mismanagement of dispersed shooting is born by the Boulder County Population. Please do the responsible thing for the common good of the boulder county population and approve eliminating shooting in the forests west of Raymond/Riverside Colorado.</p>



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Area 2/ Lon Hagler SWA Office
4207 West County Road 16E
Loveland, CO 80537
P 970-472-4460 | F 970-472-4468

November 15, 2022

Boulder County Board of County Commissioners

Re: CPW's Opposition to Expanding Shooting Closures in Boulder County

Dear County Commissioners,

I write to you to express Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) opposition to the proposed expansion of shooting closures in Boulder County. The proposed closures will impair CPW's ability to manage Boulder County's mule deer herd, perpetuating high rates of chronic wasting disease (CWD) and leading animals to concentrate in non-huntable areas. Further, closing these areas to hunting is unlikely to promote safety or reduce the number of gunshots heard by Sugarloaf, Magnolia or Riverside/Raymond area residents.

Hunting is a critical herd population management tool that can help reduce CWD and prevent herds from over-concentrating in certain areas. Boulder's mule deer herd has a CWD prevalence of 20%, four times CPW's management threshold of 5%. Licenses can be allocated such that bucks, which are twice as likely as does to carry CWD, are culled at a higher rate, reducing CWD prevalence. Hunting can also lower the population density and average age of the deer herd, thereby reducing transmission of the disease and improving the overall health of the herd.

The proposed expansion of the closures is unlikely to improve the safety of area residents. Colorado has robust hunting safety laws and hunter education requirements that promote the safety of hunters and the public such that hunting-related injuries are rare. The available evidence confirms that hunting in the subject areas is safe: there have been no documented hunting related injuries or property damage in the past several decades in the subject areas.

The only documented hunting citation that has taken place in the Sugarloaf area occurred on private land—and the proposed closures will not prevent hunting or target shooting on private land. In fact, as much as half of the hunting licenses issued in the subject areas are only valid on private lands. Because hunting on private land will continue, the closures would likely impact a small but important number of hunters who enjoy hunting safely in the area and likely do not have the privilege of hunting on private lands.

Similarly, it is unlikely that the proposed closures will substantially reduce the number of gunshots heard by community members. Target shooting on private land will continue, and those that shoot on public lands will still be able to do so outside of the closed areas. The sound of gunshots can carry over several miles, so shots will still be audible to nearby residents.

In short, CPW believes that the proposed closures will harm Boulder's mule deer herd health while providing no substantial benefit to area residents. For these reasons, CPW opposes the



proposed expansion of shooting closures and strongly supports full funding of the remainder of the costs needed to develop an alternative shooting facility (such as the proposed Boulder Rifle Club expansion) as soon as possible.

When working on wildlife issues in Boulder County, it is often said by residents that “the wildlife was here first, so we need to learn how to live together.” I would challenge the Commissioners’ to remember that humans have hunted here long before this area was surveyed and claimed by others. It would be wise to find ways to live with hunters as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. S. ...", written over a horizontal line.

Area Wildlife Manger
Colorado Parks and Wildlife