

Crystal Lakes Road and Recreation Association Special Notice - Illegal and Unsafe Shooting



A site visit was held on November 5, 2020 to discuss the illegal and unsafe recreational sport shooting near the Crystal Lakes subdivision. The participants included Commissioner Kefalas and representatives from USFS, LCSO, CPW, DNR, and CLRRRA. Two areas near Crystal Lakes have been identified as unsuitable for dispersed recreational sport shooting in the USFS [Final Decision Notice](#) (June 2019). The first area is North of Deadman Road to South of Filings 9 and 14. The second area is North of Filing 9 on Tiny Bob Road to South of Filing 7. Here are the takeaways from the site visit:

- There is no question that these [areas](#) are unsafe for recreational sport shooting (e.g., less than 150 yards from residences, lack of safe backstops, use of alcohol/drugs while shooting, exposing property owners to injury or damage).
- To ensure that the public has access to areas where they can safely shoot, closures of unsuitable areas are contingent upon new public ranges being open (trigger point) which is likely a few years away due to the challenges of constructing public ranges.
- The eventual closures apply only to recreational sport shooting and do not include lawful hunting or other recreational activities such as camping, backpacking, etc.
- CLRRRA offered three “bridge the gap” options including emergency, recreational, and seasonal closures but these options lack the enforcement that comes with the trigger point when additional LEO resources become available.
- USFS is currently performing suppression repair that includes blocking the entrances of dozer fire lines coming off Deadman Road and the dozer fire line intersecting with Tiny Bob Road. The work must be prioritized due to weather.
- An area closure under the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)

will probably not apply to these areas as there was minimal suppression work accomplished due to the Cameron Peak Fire.

- There is a great partnership between USFS and LCSO despite not having a formal cooperative enforcement agreement. Tickets issued under CFR Title 36 (e.g., reckless discharge of a firearm) fall under the purview of the Denver District Attorney's Office.
- The well documented safety issues for these areas triggered USFS to implement an [Adaptive Management Strategy](#) that starts with an educational response (e.g., increased signing to include a map, weekend saturation patrols, and other media actions) similar to what was implemented after the accidental shooting near Swamp Creek in RFL which has had positive results, according to USFS.
- USFS prefers to take the least restrictive action appropriate for the situation. If the education response fails to achieve the desired outcome, USFS can implement additional engineering and enforcement actions (e.g., constructing barriers, restrictions, closures).
- USFS will continue to monitor the educational response and reevaluate this summer. CLRRRA property owners are encouraged to continue to report illegal and unsafe shooting.
- For the second area (Tiny Bob Road), USFS and CLRRRA will partner in the spring to block the entrance to the camping area with buck and rail fencing.
- Conveyance options were briefly discussed for the second area (Tiny Bob Road) but ruled out as CLRRRA has no suitable land to trade to USFS to be included in the National Forest System and acquiring suitable land is cost prohibitive to CLRRRA property owners.
- Participants reaffirmed their commitment to the safety of property owners and all options remain open and on the table.

Please contact the CLRRRA Board of Directors if you have any questions (clrrrboard@crystal-lakes.org).

Thank you and stay safe,

Bryon Fessler
CLRRRA President

Acronyms

USFS - United States Forest Service

LCSO - Larimer County Sheriff's Office

CPW - Colorado Parks and Wildlife

DNR - Department of Natural Resources

CLRRRA - Crystal Lakes Road and Recreation Association

LEO - Law Enforcement Officer

BAER - Burned Area Emergency Response

CFR - Code of Federal Regulations

RFL - Red Feather Lakes
