December 15, 2022

Dear Slater Turner and the Ochoco National Forest,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Draft EA for the proposed Lemon Gulch Trails Project #58831.

I appreciate the thorough mapping of the trails and project description.

Below are the area of concern with the Draft EA for the proposed Lemon Gulch Trails Project #58831.

1. The lack of public involvement.
2. The EA references the Mill Creek Restoration plan in the project EA that I was unable to find. Does it even exist?
3. The density of the roads, trails and parking development in the all action alternatives exceeds allowable densities in the Forest Plan. All alternatives are in close proximity to Lemon Creek, which will effect wildlife. In the project’s trail areas, there have been areas where landslides have occurred. I did not see this issue addressed in the EA.
4. The Forest Plan calls for detailed management plans for developed recreation to show how the developments will be funded and maintained, I did not see this anywhere in the project description or EA.
5. Insufficient data and analysis to show the Need of a non-motorized trail/mountain bike trail complex, where is the data numbers to support this. The forest plan call for increase trails not the need for high speed, downhill technical trails such as those proposed in Lemon Creek or on the Ochoco National Forest. Need is not explained or clarified where is the numbers/data? Where is the Need for three 35 vehicle parking areas, it is not explained or clarified. Users could ride their bikes up to the top of the trails.
6. The analysis for Grazing and Wildlife, there is insufficient science stated in the EA and no similar projects to compare with this project.

It seems there is a different goal here than the one stated in the Forest Plan, increase in non-motorized trails, instead the project presents a dense and technical mountain bike complex.

In conclusion, I am in opposition to the Lemon Gulch Trails Project in the Ochoco National Forest and believes as a result of these issues the Forest Service choose Alternative 1 or No Action.

Regards,

Terry Rich

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