

Dear Slater Turner and the Ochoco National Forest,

Please support Alternative #2 for the Lemon Gulch Trail System. National Forest land belongs to ALL Americans, not just select groups of people. This trail system is a perfect opportunity to increase access, education, and support of our National Lands.

I am a mountain bike instructor for people of all ages and abilities. On a daily basis, I see the positive impact of forest access and use on people, especially our impressionable youth. Getting kids outside on this trail system will boost physical and mental health. Furthermore, it offers a positive outlet for local kids of neighboring Prineville.

I coach adaptive MTB, and I love the accessibility and variety offered by Alternative #2. We need to meet the varying recreational needs of our diverse forest users, and this plan provides a pathway for every person to grow and develop in several styles of mountain biking. It is well planned and designed to meet the growing needs and interests of our area, as well as disperse our growing population of mountain bikers on a vast network of trails.

Alternative #2 is planned to successfully manage issues related to heavy use. The other alternatives create too much user density in a smaller area. Alternative #2 will create space, which in turn reduces damage to the trails, reduces congestion, and has less impact on wildlife and cattle. Ranchers are concerned about conflict with people. Alternative #2 is the best option because the mileage of the system disperses opportunities for conflict. Yes, it is the land they graze on, but it's important to remember that public land belongs to all of us. The Horse Butte Trail System is a prime example of how the ranching and MTB community can peacefully coexist; it's a non-issue with no impact on the ranchers' operations.

Another reason I love Alternative #2 is the opportunity to ride trails that offer different styles of mountain biking. Our region is flush with cross country mountain biking opportunities but is limited in downhill style biking options. Many people cannot afford the lift ticket to downhill mountain bike at Mt. Bachelor Bike Park, so this trail system increases opportunity and equity.

Some people have shared the concern that the trail system will change the local culture. Oakridge is a great example of a small community that retained its culture despite its multiple trail systems. Furthermore, that region has enjoyed great economical benefits that are directly attributed to the booming MTB tourism industry.

There is a very small but loud opposition to the Lemon Gulch project. These loud voices represent a tiny fraction of all people with a stake in our Federal Lands. Please support Alternative #2 because increasing access to the outdoors is good for people of all ages, interests, and abilities.

Thank you,

Bonnie Randolph