

From: Alfredo Julian



To: Mr. Slater Turner and Mr. Shane Jeffries
USD-Forest Service
Ochoco National Forest

Dear Mr. Turner and Mr. Jeffries,

We are writing to object to the proposed action for the Lemon Gulch Trails Project # 58831: Building a mountain bike trail Complex/Park in the Lemon Creek watershed.

We own the property at the confluence of Mill Creek and Lemon Creek, 13000 Mill Creek RD., Prineville OR 97754. Map and tax lot 13180000-00500-273.

Our first objection is forest fire risk.

On February 12, 2001 the Crook County Planning Commission had a hearing regarding a Church Camp being built on our neighbors' property. Case No. CUP CCU-2090-00. We objected to this project. Our fire expert, Earl Nichols, submitted testimony about the fire dangers of the valley. He noted the Hash fire, 4 ½ miles from the junction of Mill Creek and Lemon Creek. "The extreme dryness of the fuels was a key factor in the fires rapid spread and ultimate size, (18,500 acres). The west side of Mill Creek road is historically very dry due to the sun exposure and lack of moisture. Mr. Nichols noted the unique topography and fuels for fire risks on the Mill Creek valley.

This project was ultimately declined in large part to the forest fire issues.

We believe that this project will have a major impact on the deer and elk in the area. These animals will be displaced and have to encroach on other herds of deer and elk to get away from the activity the bike trail system would bring. Antelope also exist in the Mill Creek Drainage. These antelope do use the forested areas above Mill Creek and would also be displaced.

Another concern we have is trash left behind. We have a county pull out above our pasture to view Steins Pillar. On any weekend you can find an array of trash left behind. We have seen fridgerators, car batteries, old furniture etc.... The three large parking lots will bring other opportunities for leaving thrash. Within the last two years there was a camper trailer abandoned on Mill Creek road. It sat there for months. The county having a limited budget, did not remove this trailer. It became a target for graffiti and destruction. An eye sore for any enthusiast for our forest.

There needs to be a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), because of the scope of the project and anticipated impacts. The EA is full of inconsistencies and not inclusive, lacking comments of an engineer or geologist.