

From: [Jeffries, Shane- FS, Prineville, OR](#)
To: [Peer, Beth- FS](#)
Subject: Fwd: [External Email]Lemon Gulch Trails Project #58831
Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 8:36:55 AM

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From: alice Vaughn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 3:56:39 PM
To: Jeffries, Shane- FS, Prineville, OR <A.Jeffries2@usda.gov>; Turner, Slater -FS <slater.turner@usda.gov>; Casamassa, Glenn -FS <glenn.casamassa@usda.gov>; Moore, Randy -FS <randy.moore@usda.gov>; paulette.pyle@mail.house.gov <paulette.pyle@mail.house.gov>; vikkibreesiverson@oregonlegislature.gov <vikkibreesiverson@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: [External Email]Lemon Gulch Trails Project #58831

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We are writing to object to the proposed action for the Lemon Gulch Trails Project #58831: Building a mountain bike trail complex in the Lemon Creek watershed. We request the NO ACTION Alternative regarding this project.

We wish to address three problems that most concern us about this project.

My sister and I live in [REDACTED] and are very worried about the increase in traffic that this project will bring to the communities of Prineville, Powell Butte, and the Mill Creek area. A recently proposed resort in the Powell Butte area was shot down because of a traffic study that was done. The study showed how detrimental the increased in traffic would be, and how costly the improvements would be. The Forest Service has not done it's due diligence by requesting a traffic study done by a Transportation Engineer in the affected areas.

Secondly, having lived in Central Oregon for over 50 years we have seen first hand the effects of the drought and the devastation of wildfires. With the increase of traffic, off-site camping and introduction of noxious weeds the risk of wildfire in the Mill Creek valley will be dramatically heightened. What is the Forest Service plan to mitigate these dangers? The Forest Service has failed to address this and with resources already stretched thin, they must have an emergency plan in place before approving a project of this kind.

Last, but certainly not least, is the damage that will be done to the wildlife population in the area. According to the Forest Service website "Forest Service scientists study fish, wildlife, and their habitats in order to inform land management and address existing and emerging threats, such as climate change and habitat fragmentation. Their work focuses on restoration and conservation of wildlife habitats..." The Forest Service has failed to follow their own precepts by ignoring the impacts this project would have on wildlife. What is the Forest Service plan to mitigate the damage to breeding and grazing areas? How will the Forest Service protect these animals from disturbance during critical life stages?

We demand that the Forest Service conduct an Environmental Impact Study for the Lemon

Gulch Project and request the "NO ACTION" alternative.

We will close this letter with the request for a personal response from each recipient of this email, and a reminder of the motto of the US Forest Service: "Caring for the land and serving people."

Thank you
Alice Vaughn
Jeanne Cook

