

**From:** [Jeffries, Shane- FS, Prineville, OR](#)  
**To:** [Peer, Beth- FS](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [External Email]Re: Request for EIS for the project # 58831 referenced as Lemon Gulch Trails Project  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 13, 2022 8:35:27 AM

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**From:** Calista Songstad [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, December 12, 2022 8:46:36 PM  
**To:** Turner, Slater -FS <slater.turner@usda.gov>; Jeffries, Shane- FS, Prineville, OR <A.Jeffries2@usda.gov>  
**Cc:** Casamassa, Glenn -FS <glenn.casamassa@usda.gov>; Moore, Randy -FS <randy.moore@usda.gov>; paulette.pyle@mail.house.go <paulette.pyle@mail.house.go>; Rep Breese-Iverson <rep.vikkibreeseiverson@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen Findley <Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov>  
**Subject:** [External Email]Re: Request for EIS for the project # 58831 referenced as Lemon Gulch Trails Project

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Dear Mr. Jeffies and Mr. Slater,

I am writing as a citizen of Crook County, regarding the Lemon Creek Mountain Bike Complex proposal.

I moved to Prineville with my family looking for a different way of life than we had in Bend. The forests of Deschutes were once pristine areas loved and stewarded by its users. In the last five years, it has been an area of disgraceful dumping of garbage including large appliances, couches, and household trash. The homeless camping has made areas like China Hat an area that people fear visiting and have been the cause of numerous fires.

There is a mutual respect out here in Crook County for those who go to the Ochoco's to hike, ride bikes, ride horses, camp, and hunt. It is also land where grazing rights are held by ranchers to graze their cattle.

I watched in Bend as the mountain bikers outgrew their pump track and built trails,

and then built trails off those trails. I watched as the adrenaline rush could not be reached on the complex trails and Mt. Bachelor agreed to convert the ski slopes to bike trails in the summer. The positive side of this is that Mt. Bachelor has year-round staff observing and grooming the trails to keep them as safe as possible. They also have an urgent care established at the mountain, patrol on staff, and a landing area established when helicopters are required for medivacs. I personally know at least a half a dozen people that went over their handlebars, coming down those trails and ended up breaking collarbones and needing medical attention.

Mt. Hood had to cancel their downhill Mt. Bike trails after a lawsuit of over \$10,000,000. The biker had crashed and landed on one of their signs and ended up paralyzed.

Prineville is the closest town to the area proposed and has two ambulances total in town. The emergency services estimate a 2-2 1/2 hour response time to get to this area and that is if it's an area that they can drive to. Much of this area was logged fifty years ago and required helicopters to lift the trees out. The pads are there, for when this area needs to be logged again as the fire risk rises. The proposed trail complex does not consider having to destroy these pads and replace them later when needed, nor did it request an Environmental Impact Study to bring an engineer into the proposal to show how the area would hold up to the switch backs being carved into such steep land without stability points. The proposal does not take into account the flat parking area it would require to get 300 plus bikers predicted to participate a day up to the trails or what part of a creek or wildlife area would be damaged to give them such parking. No compaction, no erosion.

This area is a single road system with one way in and one way out. So, where is the plan for if an accident blocks this road? Where is the plan for if a fire starts below the main area and leaves bikers stranded in the wildfire? Where is the security for the landowners in the area, who do not have a large fire department if such an event

occurred? Who will pay the taxes to provide additional ambulances, Fire Trucks, and personnel so the people of the town are not left without help when our first responders are called to the woods? Why wasn't the community's input actively requested to bring a proposal to the table that included everyone involved? This proposal will affect everyone that lives in Crook County. This past week the community of Prineville hosted an event and invited the members of the Central Oregon Trail Alliance to come and take part in the conversation. They declined the invitation.

I hope you will halt all plans for this complex, until an Environmental Impact Study is completed, and the questions above can be answered with confidence.

Calista Songstad

