

---

December 14, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I am 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. I am asking for a "NO ACTION" alternative.

My family has lived in [REDACTED] for over four generations. My Grandfather was a logger and helped to build the roads in this area that the Forest service is planning to develop. My family and I have hiked, hunted and ridden horses back through this area for years. I have followed the ribbons on horse back since early Spring. This is mostly steep mountainous terrain and the proposed trails will cause serious erosion problems.

I have ridden this section of the Ochoco Forest for years imagine my surprise when I found these ribbons and decided to follow them because I knew this had nothing to do with logging. I asked one of the ranchers what was going on and to my surprise I discovered that this was happening under my very nose. I talked to more of the local residents and went to a meeting and started emailing the forest service. (Who has always ignored my concerns and never replied.). I was shocked I did not know about this when it was first proposed.

Prineville at this time does not have the infrastructure to handle the amount of traffic of this kind of project. We are very congested now! What about EMT services being inadequate let alone Forest Service employees servicing this kind of project. I have been told time and again from the Forest Service that there is no money to repair or service the roads and/or the trails you already have.

I recall years ago the Forest Service would not allow a Camp up Mill Creek, I believe it was not approved because of not adequate access road for increased traffic. What changed? This is leaps and bounds much bigger than some small Christian Camp. Mill Creek is a narrow country road not design for heavy traffic. You need to be consistent as you address the issues for the area..

The mountain bikers are strong in number and cater to a small elite group of people who thrill seek bombing down steep terrain. The wild life don't need this kind of pressure.

This area hasn't been logged since the 70's and the amount of dead trees and slash and blow down is huge. This is a powered keg ready to be one hot wild fire. I believe

this area needs to be managed and logged to decrease the loss a wildfire will cause before you even consider adding miles of biker trail and camp sites. I have lots of video footage of the orange ribbons and the present condition of the Ochoco Forest.

I feel the Forest Service has been very secretive about this. I hope some of the lawyers will be able to sort this out.

As a concerned long time resident of Prineville, DO NOT approved this mountain bike complex In the Lemon Creek area. It takes away the rural character of our community for an elite few.

Sincerely,

Cindy Madison-Chaney

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]