

December 13, 2022

Mr. Shane Jeffries
USDA-FS, Ochoco National Forest
3160 NE Third Street
Prineville OR 97754

RE: **Lemon Gulch Trails Project #58831**

Dear 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 request the **NO ACTION** alternative and here are a few of our reasons for the **NO ACTION** request:

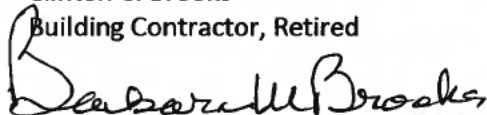
- The general public was **not** notified of this significant and unrepresented action on the Ochoco National Forest.
- This proposed complex, regardless of suggested alternatives, requires an **Environmental Impact Statement** versus an Environmental Assessment based on **human environment, wildlife impacts, fire and safety**.
 - This Complex and its usage would forever alter the serene nature of the Mill Creek Valley.
 - Wildlife existence would not be sustainable; the Complex would interfere with the existing wildlife. One example: Birthing and rearing would be disturbed driving out the wildlife population, especially elk and deer.
 - Off-site camping would stress the land and dramatically increase likelihood of wildfires, especially in light of the current increases in draught and wildfire in Crook County.
- The trails should be analyzed along with all other trails **forest wide**; for instance, treaded trails on steep, talus slopes are not sustainable and would cause erosion.

We are long time, local residents and employers in Crook County. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request: **NO ACTION** on the Lemon Gulch Trails Project #58831.

Sincerely,



Clinton C. Brooks
Building Contractor, Retired



Barbara "Bobbi" M. Brooks
Vice President & Bank Manager, Retired

Our Address:

[REDACTED ADDRESS]