

From: [Jeffries, Shane- FS, Prineville, OR](#)
To: [Peer, Beth- FS](#)
Subject: Fwd: [External Email]response to FS Lemon Gulch- 2nd letter Dec. 12
Date: Monday, December 12, 2022 6:44:59 PM

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From: Cora Klein [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 5:52:33 PM
To: Turner, Slater -FS <slater.turner@usda.gov>; Jeffries, Shane- FS, Prineville, OR <A.Jeffries2@usda.gov>; Casamassa, Glenn -FS <glenn.casamassa@usda.gov>; Moore, Randy -FS <randy.moore@usda.gov>
Cc: Rodney Klein [REDACTED]; C Klein [REDACTED]; Kim Vogel [REDACTED]
Subject: [External Email]response to FS Lemon Gulch- 2nd letter Dec. 12

[External Email]

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Dear Mr. Turner and Mr. Jeffries:

This comment supplements my previous comment of a letter dated December 5, in which I addressed my concerns with the selection of Lemon Gulch Project and the creation of a Mountain Bike Complex along Mill Creek Valley.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to you as it shows respect toward affected adjacent landowners such as myself. Especially, now that I have seen the Environmental Analysis has been done. According to a code of Federal regulations, 1506.6 Public Involvement and NEPA, the Forest Service has an obligation to consider the community's responses. The Environmental Analysis explained why (some) of the mountain biking community wanted technical trails. However, it did not give equal consideration to the many others who do not want a complex. This complex will involve use of county roads not equipped for volumes of tourism that we know will show up. Especially after all the publicity that COTA has promoted, as well as Mr. Jeffries in newspaper articles about the excellent terrain for thrill seeking trails.

Having looked at the FOIA documents, and the meeting notes taken at the "Ochoco Trails Strategic Planning Committee", REPRESENTATION of community members was not equal considered. Some committees members objected in these ways:

- a. creating another multi- use trail with horses and bikes together
- b. not having enough representation of biologists, engineers, wildlife specialists present
- c. the postponement of having a public forum and information meeting at the library
- d. members withdrawing
- e. over- representation of "one" special interest group over others

In a letter I wrote in in 2019, I asked, " Why was the Forest Service even thinking about the Lemon Gulch area, when a study of "Mill Creek Dry Forest Restoration Project" was

considered?. Contradictory at the least. How do you nurture the forest resources with a Bike Complex that brings in more physical impact upon the land, water, and wildlife? Living on Mill Creek Road, I have taken pictures of Eagles, Elk with young, deer, woodpeckers, rattlesnakes, and many other species of wildlife during the entire year, not just during winter range time. The Bike Complex will not help the water supply of the creeks, or the nurturing of the wildlife with shuttles, parking lots, and competitive bike riding events occurring within their habitat.

I did not get a response from Mr. Turner on my first letter. I would like to be "personally" responded this time as to why, with some much dissent from the general public AFTER they were informed, as well as the reaction of the Crook County Resources Advisory Committee, the Forest Service continues to select Lemon Gulch. A public forum should be held, as well as an "Environmental Impact Study" to answer our questions. There are so many illogical and inconsistent discrepancies in the "Process" the Forest Service went through to make their decision. Affected landowners were not part of their decision and were not informed with respect to federal guidelines. This decision affects not just the natural resources of a riparian waterway and a forest that will be threatened for survival. It also affects the cultural and agrarian lifestyle of Prineville. With drought conditions and limited resources of fire protection, this Forest Service decision why we importance of pleasing a special-interest group could mean another devastating fire like Grizzly Mountain or the Grant County fires. In my opinion, you are treading on my private rights as well as a forest's integrity.

Sincerely,

Cora L. Klein

