

Roy and Mary Beyer  
Wine Down Ranch, llc

12-15-2022

Slater Turner  
District Ranger, Lookout Mountain District  
Ochoco National Forest

Regarding: Lemon Gulch Trails Project, Draft Environmental Assessment comments

To Whom it May Concern;

As permittees in the Mill/ McKay allotment of the Ochoco National Forest, we would like to express our concerns/ support for the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Lemon Gulch Trails Project. We have met with Ochoco National Forest resource personnel to come to an alternative that we could support.

We would support alternative 3 for all the reasons described on page 12 of the draft EA. If we could make a recommendation to the alternatives, we would support alternative 3 plus incorporate the 2.7 mile climb trail on the east side of Lemon Gulch. This would give the bikers the climb trail they desire but still eliminate the west side cross country loop that we have always opposed in our meetings with the forest service personnel. We do not like the west side trails because it opens up a lot more areas for cattle- biker conflicts as this is an important area to get our cattle into Lemon Gulch.

A second objection to putting a lot of biking recreationists in Lemon Gulch is the safety factor. Whether it be cattle and biker interactions on the trails or a single lane road for uphill and downhill vehicle traffic. There is not a lot of room for pickups pulling cattle/ horse trailers and meeting recreationists vehicles on the 3360 road. In the draft EA, it was referenced that the vegetative management project that is proposed for the Mill creek area would have provisions to fix the roads; however, that project is not official thus the road issues are not certain to be addressed.

In the end, if a high concentration of trails are built and especially the west side trails, the permittees will be the losers and eventually ran out of Lemon Gulch. History has proved in other allotments, whether public or private, that mountain biking and cattle grazing in high concentrations do not mix. The nuisance factor becomes greater for the permittees than the grazing is worth.

As earlier stated, we hope that this bike trails project proceeds with the least amount of impact to the permittees. We feel that alternative 3 proposal plus the addition to the uphill climb trail in alternative 6 is a good compromise between permittees and mountain bikers. As stated in the Lemon Gulch project proposal, for these areas of the Ochoco National Forest, timber and forage production has higher priorities than other multiple uses of the forest.

Thank you for considering our concerns/ support for the Lemon Gulch trails project.

Roy and Mary Beyer