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Comments: I am writing in support of the proposed mountain bike trails in the Lemon Gulch area of the Ochoco National Forest. After reading the various alternatives for the proposal, I believe the best choice for the area would be Alternative #2. This alternative allows for the most miles of new trails and a wider diversity of types of trail to appeal to more trail users. It also uses a greater area of the Lemon Gulch region which would allow for lower user concentration on available trails, allowing for a better experience in nature.

Alternative 2 also allows for a greater amount of trails available for adaptive bicycles and beginner level riders. I believe it is important for everyone to have access to public lands, and alternative 2 allows those of differing abilities access to trails on their public lands. I am a volunteer coach for Deschutes Composite team in the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA), and happen to know that Prineville has started a team this year. Besides teaching student athletes the competitive aspect of mountain biking, NICA focuses on having fun, staying healthy, and being a steward for the public areas in which we recreate. Alternative 2 will provide a place to learn those lessons close to Prineville, and will allow the diversity of trails to help the youth progress as their mountain biking skill levels advance.

There is some opposition to Alternative 2 due to the crossing of grazing areas in the Lemon Gulch area with this proposal. I do know that COTA, and the Central Oregon mountain biking community, has been able to coexist with ranchers with grazing rights in other areas across the region. I do not feel there would be any reason Lemon Gulch would be an area that these two community members would suddenly find themselves unable to coexist in the same space. However, if the Forest Service does not feel Alternative 2 is viable, I believe that Alternative 6 is the next best option for the proposal of building mountain biking trails in the area.

Lastly, as an active member in the trail maintenance community in Central Oregon, I look forward to opportunity help build new trails, and then maintain them, in the Lemon Gulch area. Thanks for considering offering these new trails in order for a greater number of people to enjoy their national forests in a variety of ways.