

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/19/2022 10:43:11 PM

First name: Gerald

Last name: Boyd

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a resident of Crook County, live not far from this proposed project, and I am familiar with the environment this project will disrupt if approved. I am writing in opposition to it. Prior to moving here 5 years ago we lived in Eastern Oregon adjacent to the Wallowa-Whitman NF. I mention that because the USFS treated that forest as if they owned it rather than the public. Under the guise of "protecting the forest" they significantly reduced public access to the forest by closing roads and trails even barricading them to prevent access. Meanwhile the USFS prohibited logging and allowed the forest to become a tinder box if a lightning caused fire erupted. How? By allowing duff, debris and fallen timber to accumulate on the forest floor to a depth in many places of 15 feet.

Why do I mention this? Because in contrast with the proposed Lemon Gulch (misnamed by the way) project it clearly demonstrates the hypocrisy and inconsistency the USFS has a reputation for. Because of the politics of the group wanting the Lemon Gulch Project the USFS is more than willing to ignore the damaging impacts this project will have on the environment and on the long standing uses of private lands adjacent to the project. 50 miles of trails to appease a relatively small number of people along with infrastructure like parking lots. No apparent concern I guess for the impact on streams, the potential for erosion, and the displacement of animals (elk, deer, bear, antelope, fox, mountain lions, wolves, etc etc) which now make this area their home.

You can attempt to justify this project by claiming it will benefit a larger group than just mountain bike riders.

Wrong. Hikers, hunters, horseback riders (I do all of those things) have plenty of other places to recreate. And, let me assure you that none of those groups will be attracted to an area populated primarily by bike riders.

Be consistent in your approach to environmental protection. This project is NOT consistent with that objective.