Comments: Dear Slater Turner and the Ochoco National Forest,

I am writing in support of the Lemon Gulch trail network in the Ochoco National Forest. This project is clearly a well thought out and well studied proposal that will help meet the current and future needs of recreation in the Ochocos. It also has many benefits to trail users and Crook County residents.

Increased use in the Ochocos is a completely predictable future. Trail conflict and crowding will be a certainty in the near term if additional trail opportunities are not implemented soon. The work of Ochoco Trails represents many years of dedicated planning and collaboration that has led to a proposal that can solve these issues. Mountain bike users are clearly a fast growing segment of users in the Ochocos; by creating this network of trails in an already heavily-used area close to town we can maintain the wild and rugged nature of more remote areas in the Ochocos.

Crook County and Prineville will also benefit enormously, from both economic and health perspectives. Having a trail network much closer to town means easier access for local families to get out and enjoy the forest, which will lead to a healthier population. Studies have shown that in Oregon alone, mountain biking cuts $26 Million annually in health care costs. Mountain biking has also shown repeatedly in small towns around the country to add a significant boost to the economy. In Oakridge, Oregon mountain bikers spend $2.3-$4.9 million every year. Prineville is in a perfect position to gain these advantages that tourism brings without detracting from the small town lifestyle that residents enjoy.

In reading the environmental assessment I truly appreciate the breadth of issues that the USFS assessed and the thoroughness with which this project has been approached.

Thank you for your consideration.

James Good
Owner
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