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First name: Charles

Last name: Rosenfeld

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support Lemon Canyons Trails Alternative 2 (full build out) as the most practical and environmentally sound strategy for the Ochoco NF. As a long time landscape and erosion management consultant to both state and federal land management agencies, I have reviewed the EA and November action report and FAQ with regard to usage trends, management feasibility, and long-term sensitivity of the planning area.

Comprehensive planning of construction activities permits agencies and interest groups to collectively envision development and end states, without having to deal with unknown interruptions or administrative variability... these are critical variables that cannot be understated. Additionally, wildlife, resource, and fire management considerations are given a stable planning environment, which precludes staff uncertainty and the ability to address alternative usages in a consistent manner.

Partial approvals and limited construction planning can result in the undesirable creation of surreptitious trails by recreational users anxious to expand their opportunities on their own. Such unplanned activities frequently increase erosion, and disturb cultural resources and wildlife habitat that can become serious problems in the future.

USFS investment in environmental and resource management has been considerable and thorough. Protecting and expanding upon this base is both economical and strategically prudent. Therefore, I strongly recommend the comprehensive approach reflected in Alternative 2.