Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/22/2022 1:23:16 AM

First name: Lawrence

Last name: O'Keefe

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in support of the Lemon Gulch project in the Ochoco National Forest. I am a resident of Corvallis Oregon, and often go over to Central Oregon to ride the trails in the Bend and Redmond area. I believe that facilitating recreational use is an important priority for the Forest Service, one, which, in my opinion, has been under represented for too long. As stated in the Environmental Assessment, there are currently NO mountain biking trails in the Ochoco even though the need was identified more than 30 years ago. The Ochoco Trails Coalition spent years preparing a proposal that concentrates trail construction in a tiny fraction of the overall Ochoco Forest and provides separate trails for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrian users. Given the complete absence of mountain biking, trails currently available I strongly support the full build of 51.6 miles of trails as developed and proposed by the citizen volunteers of the Ochoco Trails coalition. I understand that the Forest Service prefers an alternative with something like half of the proposed trail mileage, The FS rationale is to mitigate impacts on grazing a wildlife. It is clear that the Forest Service already allows plenty of grazing within the Ochoco, and by their own admission on page 7 of the assessment document, there is essentially no incremental impact on wildlife. I believe that the Forest Service should heed the input of collaborative citizen groups, and suggest that grazing land users share this public resource with the public.