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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Slater Turner(Forest Supervisor)

Hello my name is Ian Sexton. I wrote a letter regarding this before but I am not sure it got to you. I am writing to state my opposition to the Lemon Gulch mountain bike trail proposal. I live on Mill creek and the proposed trails pretty much are on the edges of my property. I have no problem with mountain biking but I ask that this project to consider another area. The main reason that I oppose this is because I elk hunt in Lemon Gulch. I have killed to five point bulls in the Lemon Gulch area in the last five years. One of those bulls was within fifty yards of one of the flagged trails. I can all but guarantee that elk will leave this area when mountain bikers use it. We live in an area that people can drive fifteen minutes from Prineville and hunt elk. That is pretty amazing and we are so very privileged to have that opportunity. I would hate to replace elk with mountain bikers. We have a good balance now with wildlife and humans. If we take that habitat from them it would be a shame.

I was raised in Bend and I watched the wildlife disappear where they put in Mt. Bike trails. I moved to Prineville about five years ago and have since realized that this is such an amazing place. Elk and humans are in close proximity in this area and surprisingly it is balanced enough where the animals don't leave. Quiet fast moving bikes flying down the mountain will make the animals leave. Cougars are fast and quiet as well. There has to be another place that you could put this. At least a place without residents or a place that residents don't mind these trails going in. Like in Bend. Many people recreate from their houses on mountain bikes in Bend. Mill Creek is made up of ranchers and hunters and we utilize the country in different ways. As I am sure you know, no one in Mill Creek wants these trails. I haven't talked to a single person that lives here that wants this. No one.

Frankly it would be just plain stupid to put in 50+ miles of mountain bike trails in this valley. We have to steward this land and these trails will ruin elk, deer and bear habitat. The mule deer population is already suffering from predation, poaching and mismanagement. There are some nice bucks that live in Lemon Gulch. They would be dispersed as well.

Ian Sexton

Mill Creek Resident