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First name: John

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Organization:

Title:

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. As a mountain biker I am very excited to see a proposal like this in Central Oregon.

The type of trail network proposed in Lemon Gulch provides a modern, desirable riding experience that fills a need that is severely lacking in Central Oregon. I believe this trail network has a high likelihood of reducing user conflict on other trails in the Ochocos. Alternative 2 provides the highest volume and range of trail experiences, and therefore will have the most impact in drawing mountain bikers away from other trails. I understand that compromise is required when accounting for other factors such as ecological and resource impacts; of the other alternatives presented, alternative 6 offers a reasonable range of trail styles and mitigates a large amount of concerns raised with alternative 2.

Mountain bike tourism has been shown time and again to be a valuable addition to local economies. Studies have shown that in Oregon alone, mountain biking cuts \$26 million annually in health care costs. In Oakridge, Oregon mountain bikers spend \$2.3-\$4.9 million every year.

?Thank you for your consideration.

John Mackay