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First name: Drew

Last name: Rohde

Organization: The Loam Wolf

Title: Owner

Comments: Thank you very much for the opportunity to write in and considering such an addition to the region. I am FOR mountain bike access and an increase in outdoor recreation for more users. Outdoor fitness, recreation and mountain biking specifically are on the rise since the pandemic hit and outdoor enthusiasts love having new places to go and ride. Having more miles of trails will alleviate the trails that are overcrowded, slow down erosion simply because there are more trails to disperse riders over a larger area. The local community will also see benefits from food, beverage and other ancillary services from those who travel from neighboring towns to visit and ride. It will make the area more desirable to live in as well, which will attract home buyers/renters and potential businesses. Hiring people to live in an area with great offerings like trail networks is hugely important. We do not see any reason why responsible bicycle use will affect hunters, ranchers or animals. Ask any mountain biker how many times they've come across animals and how they react and it's often. Bicycles are quiet, riders migrate through their area and move on. I've literally passed dozens of bedded down deer who barely hop up as I've ridden past on my bicycle. We will not be terrifying animals or causing them stress by quietly whooshing by.

Lastly, as a business owner, who's business is testing and reviewing mountain bikes for our internationally recognized media outlet, having a place to ride bikes and test the gear we're sent is hugely attractive to keeping our business in Oregon rather than moving to another more mountain bike trail friendly state.

Thank you for your consideration.