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First name: Mark

Last name: Motsko

Organization:

Title:

Comments: After reviewing the USFS planning document regarding the Lemon Gulch mountain bike proposal, I support alternative 2. I commend the USFS for the extensive, unbiased research conducted in this study. I feel that many of the concerns regarding impacts have been addressed.

Based on the information provided, I see little to no concerns with livestock/biker collisions. The selection of Lemon Gulch is also outside of traditional high elevation elk calving grounds.

Based on the shifting demographics of the Central Oregon population, it is essential that the community researches recreational opportunities which serve the users of public lands. This land is owned by all Americans regardless of where they live. I applaud the Ochoco Trails collaboration that includes user groups from various venues including equestrian, ORV, hikers, bicyclist and the community of Prineville.

If Prineville and Crook County chose to be part of the growth in Central Oregon, they must realize that change is inevitable. Our population is growing, recreational opportunities beyond horseback riding and ORV use is needed. Establishing a trail system that does not conflict with the before mentioned groups is essential as our recreational needs shift.

There have been many concerns raised by opponents to this project, and although I cannot address all of them, I do have a rebuttal to the fear of added trash by the mountain bike community. Two weeks ago, my wife and I drove our pickup truck between Mill and McKay Creeks and were appalled by the number of beer cans and cartons that littered the ditch lines. These were 12 pack cartons and numerous cans which obviously were not left by someone riding a bike.

In closing, the Lemon Gulch Project lies within public lands, owned by all Americans and should be managed as such. Succumbing to local residents regarding who has access is not appropriate.

Mark Motsko

Powell Butte, Oregon