

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/28/2022 7:55:36 PM

First name: Dan

Last name: Youmans

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr. Turner and the Ochoco National Forest:

As a life-long mountain biker and volunteer trail builder, I urge your support for the Lemon Gulch trail project. I have personally experienced the significant benefits that come from the development of a world-class mountain bike trail system here in Central Oregon. The Lemon Gulch project will make an important contribution to this network and help address the increasing demand for trails in our community.

The benefits of the Lemon Gulch proposal are many. To name only a few:

- providing an added opportunity for the healthy activities of mountain biking, hiking and trail running;
- bringing economic benefits to the Prineville community through local citizens and visitors who will dine and shop at the city's businesses as part of the use of this new trail network;
- dispersing users of the forests to a new area while relieving pressure on existing recreational trails.

The development of the Lemon Gulch proposal was a collaborative effort involving a large and diverse group of organizations, who recognized the many benefits of this project. This is a great example of people with differing views and goals for our forests working together to find agreement.

As you contemplate a final decision on this project, I hope you'll consider the full 52-mile proposal (Alternative 2). It offers the best way to meet the demand for a variety of mountain biking experiences, from beginner to advanced. At the same time, I'd certainly support the "preferred alternative" (Alternative 6) which, while reducing the scope of the project to 27.5 miles, still provides significant benefits and diverse riding opportunities.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this project.