

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/29/2022 8:21:54 PM

First name: Ryan

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Slater Turner & the Ochoco National Forest,

I am writing in support of the Lemon Gulch trail network in the Ochoco National Forest. As a seasoned mountain biker I am very excited to see a proposal like this in Central Oregon. Currently, I travel 3 months of the year around America to enjoy mountain biking. Spending lots of time in purpose-built meccas, like Moab, Utah; Fruita, CO; and Bentonville, AR. Having seen the enhancements to the communities in these "purpose-built" mountain biking meccas, I can attest to the economic and social benefits of community projects like the Lemon Gulch Trail Network.

The trail network proposed in Lemon Gulch provides a perfect riding experience that fills a void 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. Of these proposals: Alternative 2 is the highest volume and range of trail experiences, and therefore will have the most positive 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. Closer proximity to Prineville means less time spent driving for locals and visitors alike.

?Thank you for your consideration.