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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Gentleman,Ladies

My name is Robert Robertson a 7 year resident of Prineville and just recent former Trailbuilder of multiple trails in the Ochocos, Mt Bachelor, Crooked River Ranch, Spence Mountain Klamath Falls and I built about 9 miles of trail in Barnes Butte in Prineville over the course of four years before the City took over. I am a Military Veteran of 24 years and have been wounded twice during combat operations while deployed. I list these details in the effort to express the love I have for community and the enjoyment of recreation after work is done and am appreciative of hard working folks in all aspects of life no matter what their beliefs are about things.

Just a couple of months ago I was in Prineville at my beloved Barnes Butte as a course Marshall assisting young People in High School racing league (NICA) a Cross Country racing group that found one of its venues to be in Prineville and at a surprise to me but one of the only "Desert" locations on their schedule and on one of the same days there was a protest against trail development in Lemon Gulch area. of course neither were associated with each other but it was odd to explain to a young person why they were doing that because all the kids and people who use the trails know is that they are places to express themselves freely on public land have fun while rejuvenating the mind and body.

As a Trailbuilder I was fortunate enough to work with Professionals in this trade on the Oregon Timber Trail who worked alongside Ranchers, their Cattle and Bikers Hikers etc without incident and all that was asked of us after was close the gate which we did to protect our work and be respectful which was never a problem. I do think the perception of non stewardship in the case of Lemon Gulch would be a factor and those concerned would have to deal with a swell of unruly folks on bikes with no respect for property but I do tell you from the Trailbuilding/Mountain Biking experience I have never seen this. I also share the distinction of being a Veteran and also a Mountain Biker and at the time a Trailbuilder and in which I had no opinion on any views I just built trail but I talked to young people about conflict that was real and perceived conflict and working together and providing stewardship to areas under construction and those completed.

I think both sides for and against development of the Lemon Gulch area have viable concern and a vested interest in the local community and I have seen the smiles on Peoples faces while they are riding bikes, Hiking, and riding Horses on trails I have assisted in building and they are all the same to me.