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First name: Adrian

Last name: Jones

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I recently reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Lemon Gulch Trails Project in the Ochoco National Forest. While Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) is superior to the other Action Alternatives in terms of meeting the stated purpose and need for the proposed project, I am writing to express my support for Alternative 6 (USFS's Preferred Alternative). According to the environmental analysis contained within the Draft EA, Alternative 6 would reduce the potential for significant effects to ongoing grazing operations within the Mill Creek Allotment and effects to wildlife and wildlife habitat when compared to the Proposed Action.

The proposed Lemon Gulch Trails project represents years of dedicated planning and collaboration between a variety of recreation stakeholders, neighboring land owners, and the USFS. The Lemon Gulch Trails project will provide numerous benefits to trail users and the residents of Crook County and will help mitigate existing trail user conflicts in the Ochocos National Forest by creating a network of trails in an area with existing roads, trails, and facilities close to Prineville. I strongly support implementation of the USFS's Preferred Alternative (Alternative 6). Thank you for your consideration.