

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/4/2022 5:20:47 PM

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Title:

Comments: I am from Madras, Oregon and all of my family still live in Central Oregon. We frequently are out in the Ochocos for camping, running, and gravel bike riding. I am so excited for the Lemon Gulch project and for the community to have more, safe biking trails to explore. It'll be a great addition to the local community both economically and recreationally. I frankly don't understand some of the negative comments opposed to the project; bicycle riding is not noisy or obtrusive and should have limited impact on local wildlife. The parking for the trailheads will, I imagine, be sufficient for the use needs but not over the top and will not take up much land. While a trail system will bring more visitors to the area, it will not immediately result in a "Bend effect," just look to Madras and its emerging trail system. It has provided a great resource for locals to easily access bicycle trails and put on some fun events but in no way has Madras become a Bend; it takes more than just trails for that to happen. What it will do is help bring some more money into the local economy as cyclists stop at local restaurants or pubs to grab a bite or a brew.

As someone who deeply loves the land and has ties to it going back 150 years, I see nothing but good coming from this project. I look forward to the trail system and being able to continue to explore and appreciate this beautiful land. And I suspect that's what the majority of the other trail users will be doing; enjoying and appreciating the natural beauty while recreating in a responsible manner.