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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I first fell in love with the Ochoco's when I was 18 and worked for the USFS at Rager Ranger Station. This was before mountain bikes and really the popularity of Central Oregon (1969). A few years later, 1974, my wife and I moved to Bend. She as a music teacher me as a fire fighter working for the USFS. While working for the USFS I learned about the multiple use principle which guides so much of USFS policy. My jobs included overseeing the local ranchers and their use of the Forest as rangeland. I felt this multiple use policy worked quite well.

Fast forward a few years, 1992, though I had left the USFS I still was an ardent user of USFS land. Though I lived in Bend the Ochoco Forest was still my favorite place to recreate. It was this year I first rode a mountain bike on Round Mountain, Lookout Mountain even Wolf Mountain. All of these areas are open to grazing and not once in the 30 years of riding have I ever had a conflict with a cow, a rancher, a hunter an equestrian or anyone. I routinely camp 4 or 5 times a year in the Ochoco Forest and have only had good experiences. I now volunteer as a sawyer for the local mountain bike club and I clear many of the trails in the Ochocos and again only thankful people are who I see.

Lemon Gulch is in an area that is less remote than the areas I have ridden. This will help the people from Prineville access these trails and will be a big economic benefit to the area. Mountain bike to not interfere with grazing, in fact it is very compatible with grazing. This is the perfect example of what multiple use is. People from all walks of life are mountain bikers. We are not wilderness advocates and we build, manage and maintain our own trails. I have tried to understand why there is an opposition to this project and I really am unable to do so. This project would be a way for others to fall in love with the area like did over 50 years ago. Please approve the full 51 mile proposed trail area. Thank you.

Don Leet