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First name: Aaron

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it May Concern,

First, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue. My name is Aaron Lazelle and I live in Prineville, Oregon. One of the reasons our family moved to Prineville 6 years ago was for better mountain biking and outdoor opportunities. We like the access to local in-town trails but we really love that the Ochocos are so close and offer fantastic riding even with the limited trails that exist now.

While I have not had many user conflicts myself, I have noticed that traffic on trails like Scotty and Lookout Mountain is picking up, which I expect will lead to conflict. I don't want to scare horses or hikers and I don't know any bikers that do. I love the idea of building a more concentrated, mountain bike-centric trail system close to town to minimize the interactions between different trail users. I think Lemon Gulch is a great place for this system.

I spend a lot of time in the Lemon Gulch/Wildcat Campground area. I often take my kids to ride their bikes around the Wildcat Campground loops in the off season when there are no cars. Over the past few years I have sometimes noticed trash dumps, abandoned (often burnt out) vehicles and semi-permanent looking camps. I believe that constructing a trail system in this specific area would minimize these issues as there would be more eyes in the area.

Looking over the proposed alternatives in the Environmental Assessment I like Alternative 2 the best Alternatives 5 and 6 would also offer great opportunities for riding. I like the downhill nature of the trail system, not that I'm necessarily a downhill rider. There really aren't many true downhill opportunities in Central Oregon and I think Lemon Gulch may take pressure off some of the cross country trails that are in more remote areas.

Lastly, I know that there are some concerns about grazing. I have been riding mountain bikes for over 25 years and have ridden in 9 different states. I've ridden around a lot of cows. I'm not saying it's never happened, but I have never heard of anyone hitting or hurting a cow while mountain biking.

I hope this comment finds you well. I thank you again for the opportunity to weigh in.

Sincerely,

Aaron Lazelle

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