

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/7/2022 10:41:45 PM

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Title:

Comments: Dear Slater Turner and the Ochoco National Forest,

I write this letter in support of the Lemon Gulch trail network in the Ochoco National Forest. The USFS would be able to continue working towards its goal of adding more non-motorized trails in the Ochoco National Forest. There are numerous objectives that this well-planned and thought-out proposal for The Lemon Gulch addresses and would help USFS meet this goal.

As a collaborative group, Ochoco Trails includes in the proposal for hiking and equestrian trails to provide a variety of options and not limiting the enjoying of the area to one type of outdoor recreation. This is crucial for working towards inclusivity. Including different trail types in the proposal, will help clearly mark and develop paths to ensure the safety of all types of trail users at varying skill levels.

With this proposal, The Lemon Gulch Trail network works towards more accessibility by providing trails that meet design standards for adaptive MTBs that is difficult to find in Central Oregon. The network also provides a variety of trail types to provide entry points for new, casual, and well-seasoned riders. This allows the network to be an intersection for those interested and not limit it to the exclusivity of those already well-practiced in riding.

Option 2 offers the most attractive range of riding styles for mountain bikers, which means they are more likely to constrain riding days to LG versus other areas of the Ochocos. However, when taking into account other variables such as environmental factors, alternative 6 would be the best compromise of the six options.

There are great economic and health benefits for both Crook County and Prineville. Mountain biking has often been shown in small towns around the country to add a significant boost to the economy. In Oakridge, Oregon mountain bikers spend \$2.3-\$4.9 million every year. Prineville is in a perfect position to gain these advantages that tourism brings without detracting from the small-town lifestyle that residents enjoy. Having a trail network much closer to town means easier access for local families to get out and enjoy the forest, which will lead to a healthier population. Studies have shown that in Oregon alone, mountain biking cuts \$26 Million annually in health care costs.

In reading the environmental assessment I am excited about the opportunities it can provide and the benefits it could bring to the local population. This project shows thoroughness and has addressed numerous issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Caitlin