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Comments: As I understand the goal of the Forest Service in gathering these comments, it is to make sure that the environmental and recreational needs of as many people as possible be addressed consistent with the multiple use goals of the Forest Service in general.

I'm writing in support of the Lemon Gulch Trail System Proposal Alternative #2. This alternative provides for the broadest, most flexible, and most comprehensive use of the recreational land under discussion. In my view it does so without impacting in any substantive way the environmental integrity of the land under discussion.

I am particularly interested in Alternative 2 because it addresses the unique challenges that I and many other outdoor enthusiasts face. Specifically, how to continue to enjoy outdoor activities in the face of permanent physical handicaps.

I've been an avid outdoorsman most of my 68 years. Climbing, hiking and backpacking have been my passions. Eighteen years ago, I suffered a permanent injury that severely limits my ability to participate in these activities for the rest of my life. While I am no longer able to hike, climb or bike like nondisabled people, I can, however, use adaptive bikes for outdoor recreation. These bikes can take several forms. In my case, my bike is a three-wheeled recumbent modified to use mountain bike tires. Even with such modifications I and many others with similar disabilities cannot use many of the trails accessible to the nondisabled.

For us, an important feature of Alternative #2 is the requirement that a small subset of the proposed trail network be designed and built to meet the needs of bikers with disabilities who need adaptive bikes to ride trails. For obvious reasons, most of us can't climb or maneuver our bikes like the nondisabled. We cannot simply ride more slowly or watch more carefully than they do. We need the ability to ride consistent with our skills and adaptations of our bikes.

Adaptive bikers need to have some trails included in the proposal that have shallower grades and wider treads to participate in a full range of trail riding experiences. I don't suggest that the trail networks should be equal in length either. I'd imagine significantly fewer adaptive trails than those for nondisabled riders. By including certain trails with varying difficulties for adaptive bikes and riders this proposal will serve the needs of an expanded population.