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Comments: I am writing this comment due to the fact that I believe the impact of the Lemon Gulch trail is an ill advised project. This project would concentrate a large number of people in an area that is naturally not able to sustain this type of traffic.

The Lemon Gulch area is timbered forest that allows seasonal grazing for wildlife and cattle. The bike trail system would concentrate large amounts of users into a limited area. The current utilization of this area is of minimal impact. The ranchers who graze livestock look to improve grassland and reduce noxious weeds. Hunters and hikers want to minimize their footprint in this environment to maximize the abundance of wildlife.

A bike trail system in Lemon Gulch would not limit its footprint in the ecosystem, and does nothing to benefit the range or habitat for native wildlife. The motivation for this project feels pushed through from residents outside of the county. Most supporters of the bike trail system in Lemon Gulch are only interested in their pursuit of recreational activities, and not the livelihood of residents of the area.

In conclusion this proposed bike trail system is a project not concerned with conservation of existing range and wildlife habitat, but creating recreational opportunities for non County residents with no benefit to the ecosystem. The road and septic infrastructure needed for a project such as this seem to me would be best suited to an existing ski area already established. Mill Creek and Lemon Gulch are not ready for this type of traffic and parking this bike trail system would require. Why increase human impact of our forest lands for simple recreational opportunities that could be had at an area such as Hoodoo on Santiam pass?