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First name: Rebecca

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Slater Turner and the Ochoco National Forest,

I am writing in support of the Lemon Gulch trail network in the Ochoco National Forest to expand the area's outdoor recreational opportunities on public land.

The well-planned and thought-out trail system proposed at Lemon Gulch is consistent with the Ochoco Forest plan to provide non-motorized trail opportunities for mountain bikers. The plan's development involved multiple user groups, and creating a system specifically for mountain bikers will help ease congestion at other trails in the Ochocos.

I am not a mountain biker, however I have explored many miles of trails through public lands on foot and cannot recall a single issue or conflict with someone on a bike. Typically the encounters are positive and encouraging; at worst they're neutral. Additionally I have witnessed - and have a deep respect for - the mountain biking community's dedication to and stewardship of the lands on which they ride. What I've seen from the trail and mountain bike communities in Prineville leads me to believe these trails will be very well cared for.

These are public lands, and I have yet to hear a valid argument in opposition to these trails. With the Environmental Assessment complete and stating there is a significant need for additional non-motorized trails in the Ochoco National Forest, I wholeheartedly support any movement forward to bring a new trail network to Lemon Gulch.

Thank you for your time and consideration.