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First name: Aaron

Last name: Edwards

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Aaron Edwards. I am a small local business owner, father of three teenagers and avid outdoorsman based in Snohomish County, Washington. My family and I have enjoyed kayaking, hiking, rock climbing, SUP river and lake paddling, fishing, hunting, snowshoeing, photography, ski touring, ski resort skiing and mountain biking.

I am one of the owners of www.pnwmountainbikers.com and board of directors member of the Cascades to Sound chapter of Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance. I manage the trail record of all hiking, mountain biking and other outdoor activities for Washington State, and collaborate with my counterparts in Oregon, California, Idaho and Montana. I am native American of the Navajo tribe.

I support the responsible recreation planning of dedicated, legal and well-planned mountain bike trails proposed for Lemon Gulch. This plan condenses this outdoor user group to a very small and organized region and area. Land managers will be able to drive to, evaluate conditions and impact to wildlife from a single parking lot, as well as collaborate with trail builders and those who maintain the trails voluntarily.

I believe this plan for Lemon Gulch will minimize impact of human impact to a small and well planned canyon that is managed for impact to wildlife, water mitigation and avoiding any impact to fish spawning. COTA is a well regarded and proven trail organization who plans and builds trails to international standards.

Approving the Lemon Gulch mountain bike trail system will do MUCH to mitigate rouge user-built trails that occur at all regions that do not offer or actively work against legal trail advocacy and trail development through the NEPA and SEPA process. I encourage you to approve and work with the responsible and proven professionals at Central Oregon Trail Association in the development and construction of the Lemon Gulch trail system.

Neighbors, please consider the financial benefit that an organized system such as this brings. In a trail system near me, one landowner offered a dollar lot for mountain bikers to park at. And repairs of sports equipment for an additional cost. At the same trail system, another offered training and use of vehicle access on the land. And let's not forget the killing that a taco stand can make at the base of a hiking or mountain biking trail system! Please consider the positive benefits to you outside of the benefits a trail system offers to the public land owners and users of this land.

Thank you for your consideration. I support Lemon Gulch and look forward to volunteering on building and maintaining the system!

Regards!