

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/16/2022 1:53:23 PM

First name: Ted and Kay

Last name: Tescher

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Slater Turner

District Ranger

3160 NE 3rd Str

Prineville, Oregon 97754

RE: Lemon Gulch Trails Project

Dear sir,

I am writing in regards to the Lemon Gulch Trails Project in your district. My husband and I have ranched for 50 years in the Badlands of North Dakota in the Little Missouri National Grasslands, managed by the Forest Service. These lands are fragile with very little top soil. There is a 100 mile trail in these grasslands, the Maah Daah Hey Trail, open to horseback riders, hikers and mountain bikes. No motorized vehicles. It is a single trail and does not go straight down the hills or the erosion would be unstoppable. Even though it is only one trail, the ranchers along this trail find lots of garbage and at times fences are cut by rescue crews to help someone who was hurt, and not repaired until the rancher finds cattle have strayed out of the pasture they were supposed to be in, causing additional problems, such as missed conception, etc. In addition to these problems, our county, which has a very small population has to hire several deputies and EMT's to help the people using this trail many times each summer, which strains the county resources.

The alternatives allowing multiple downhill trails would not be allowed in our grasslands. The alternatives 2-6, in our experience would be detrimental to wildlife, riparian areas and would lead to extensive erosion on such steep terrain. Also, the Forest Service in our area depends on the local county to do most of the policing-and if all the proposed trails were put in place it is doubtful the Forest Service would have the resources to monitor the use and misuse (it will come) of the area. We am not saying all bikers are bad, but it only takes one or two to ride off a steep bank to start a trail and others follow and soon it is a trail.

We are certainly not against multiple use, as these are our country's lands, but we also care about the land, the wildlife and the communities surrounding them. Because of our concerns we believe the choice of No Action Alternative would be best for the Lemon Gulch Area.

Sincerely,

Kay and Ted Tescher