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Organization:

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Comments: Dear Slater Turner and the Ochoco National Forest,

I would like to voice my support for the Lemon Gulch trail proposal. I do not claim to be an expert in understanding environmental assessments or environmental impacts of trail building. That being said, the group of individuals I associate with that go mountain biking are excellent stewards of the trails and Earth in general. Many are environmentally conscious and do everything in their power to reduce their carbon footprint.

Assuming the trail map is minimally invasive to the local ecosystem, I provide my full support in the building of new trails. My wife and I often dictate our weekend vacations based on mountain biking trail maps. We travel to nearby trails and stay 1-3 nights in the local town/campsites. While the focus is mountain biking, we aren't machines. We go into the towns and eat and shop. It's been a great way to see our state and has taken us to many areas that we otherwise wouldn't travel.

It's no secret that mountain biking is a boom for tourism. Oakridge is a prime example of this. The wildfires in Oakridge were devastating and this is the first summer in recent memory where we didn't get to bike in Oakridge. We still stopped there one night on our way through Oakridge to dine at the 3 legged crane and show our support in the best way we knew how.

With mountain bikes and everything related thereto skyrocketing in price, it's clear that mountain bikers have plenty of expendable income. Sure, not all mountain bikers are perfect stewards of the Earth, but that could be argued with regard to any outdoor group. The majority of folks that use the outdoors genuinely love the outdoors and try to leave it better than they found it. I believe the positives associated with the proposed Lemon Gulch trails far outweigh the negatives. While local residents may complain about the increase in vacation homes and a diluted town feel, I believe this complain pails in comparison to the increase in home value and overall increase in town prosperity that comes with a beautiful and well-maintained trail system that drives tourism.

Regards,

Arsalan