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First name: Kevin

Last name: Slane

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Slater Turner and the Ochoco National Forest,

For the last 17 years I have been visiting the Ochoco National Forest with friends and family to mountain bike, dirt bike, hike, fish, ski, mushroom hunt, observe wildlife and explore. Ochoco NF is very dear to me and I believe any proposed changes need to be very carefully considered. The EA statement makes it clear that the Lemon Gulch trail proposal has received its due consideration and I would like to voice my wholehearted support.

Why I support the project:

-The topography and soil of the Ochoco mountains provides a unique opportunity to build steep technically challenging trails that currently don't exist in our region.

-Crowding in the Round/Lookout has increased sharply in recent years. Mountain biking is exploding and a solution is needed to pull users to other areas of the forest to keep the wild feel of the Ochoco NF.

-The Forest Management Plan for Ochoco NF envisions 468 miles of trail for a variety of users, including mountain bikers. Over 30 years later, we have 150 miles of trail and none specifically designed for mountain bikers.

-Mountain bikers are a very involved user group with the proven ability to build and maintain trails. COTA, in particular, has demonstrated the ability to bring in qualified professional builders and turn out huge numbers of volunteers for the last 30 years. The project would meaningfully move us toward trail mileage goals of the Management Plan with minimal investment from the USFS.

-In general, there is very little trail access in the Ochoco NF relative to size.

-As a small business owner in Sunriver, I have seen the positive economical and public health benefits as well as the sense of community bike infrastructure investments will bring to Prineville. I was personally involved with the planning and construction of the Sunriver Trails and saw the wonderful community of forest stewards that coalesced around and continued beyond this project.

Why Alternative 2 best accomplishes the goals of the proposed action:

-Most riders will be traveling 45+ minutes to access this area. Avid riders will be the ones willing to travel that distance and avid riders want more advanced trails. Under any of the partial build scenarios, an avid rider will be able to ride all the advanced and intermediate trails in the network in a single afternoon. I don't think that would be enough of a draw to pull enough users from Round/Lookout mtns to make a meaningful difference. After the initial few visits, I think users will migrate back towards Lookout mountain.

-The terrain and soil in ONF provides a unique opportunity to build advanced trails. To come this far and build a token 5-7 miles of advanced trail seem like a waste. When COTA surveys users about what type of trail they want to see more of in Central Oregon, the most common response is advanced gravity oriented trails. Alternative 2 is the only one which meaningfully serves this demand.

-Alternative 2 is the only one with trails placed on the cooler aspects of the drainage. All the partial builds concentrate trails on western and southern exposures which is not ideal for summer riding. Alternative 2 will

provide the best chance for comfortable riding conditions during the entire riding season.

-The Forest Management Plan calls for 450+ miles of trail. Alternative 2 is the only one that makes a dent in that deficit.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Kevin Slane