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First name: Mitch

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Slater Turner and the Ochoco National Forest,

I would like to voice my support for the Lemon Gulch trail proposal. The Environmental Assessment outlines a clearly well planned and studied plan for a mountain bike trail network. The Ochoco Forest Management Plan specifies a need for 468 miles of non-motorized trails, including mountain bike trails. Currently there are only 156.5 miles in the Ochocos, none of which have a primary purpose for mountain biking. The Lemon Gulch proposal represents the perfect opportunity for the USFS to begin filling the need for recreational opportunities in the Ochocos as specified in the 1989 Forest plan.

As a mountain biker, Oregon has drawn me to it for the past 6 summers because of the access to amazing riding terrain. So much so that I bought a second home in Oakridge, OR to be close to the mountain biking energy that town exudes. I watch the town breath with stoke for being outside and riding epic single track as visitors stream into town each weekend to stimulate the local economy.

The benefits of mountain biking to small communities can not be overstated. Studies have shown that in Oregon alone, mountain biking cuts \$26 million annually in health care costs. Local businesses also stand to reap huge rewards from mountain bike tourism. For example, in Oakridge, Oregon, mountain bikers spend \$2.3-\$4.9 million every year.

Thank you for your consideration.