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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello~

I am writing in support of the proposed Lemon Gulch trail system. As a 70 year old, avid mountain biker from the Bend area, I see benefits of the creation/approval of this area not only to the Prineville area, but also to the entire Central Oregon forest system.

As is widely known and obvious from a frequent trail user's view, the number of mountain bike enthusiasts has increased significantly in recent years. Although I am a proponent of multi-use trails and do a fair amount of hiking, there is also a problem when a small number of trails must support many types of recreation. Thus, the need for some of our trails to be specific to certain users. We all love our trails and National Forests; that and the protection of these treasures should be at the heart of any plan. With projected use increases for multiple forest lands activities in the coming years, congestion and convergence of users will only increase. It is imperative that there is a fore-sighted plan to protect and manage our forest wildlife and vegetation for current and future generations.

The addition of the Lemon Gulch trail system would help alleviate some of the stress on existing, well-used and often over-populated forest trails in Central Oregon. Additionally, the Lemon Gulch proposal would create more technically challenging terrain for more advanced riders, along with additional family-oriented trails. These two reasons, alone, make strong arguments FOR the creation of another trail system within the Central Oregon area. I whole-heartedly support this proposal and encourage those making the final decision to see these advantages of protecting our forests throughout all of Central Oregon.

As an aging mountain bike rider and one who hopes to continue to be able to enjoy the trails for many years by bike, I would also like to advocate for allowed usage of Class 1 (pedal assist) e-mountain bikes on single-track trails. The proposal for the Lemon Gulch trail system states "non-motorized", but I would hope consideration be given to those with physical disabilities, whether age or impairment caused, to be able to access our forest trails as easily as those without. This is an issue that needs to be addressed by all of our local forest systems, as many people already realize. If there is room for the discussion of this in conjunction with the Lemon Gulch proposal, that would be a positive step for inclusion for all riders.

Thank you for the opportunity to share views and thoughts regarding the proposed Lemon Gulch trail system.