

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/17/2022 4:06:16 AM

First name: Brian

Last name: Long

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi,

I just want to show my support for the Alternative 2 in the proposed Lemon Gulch trail system. I have bike packed around the Ochoco mountains twice and found them beautiful but have felt that the area was lacking in other biking opportunities, such as mountain biking. The Purpose and Need stated in the EA supports my thought, there are currently ZERO miles of trails built and designated for mountain bikes on the Ochoco NF. Not only would this project increase the identified Forest Plan objective of 468 miles of non motorized summer trails, it would also help meet the overall goal to "[p]rovide for a variety of recreational experiences across all areas of the Ochoco National Forest, in a manner consistent with other resource objectives and environmental constraints." Reading over the EA the trails would be located in General Forest Area and Winter Range both of which have virtually no restrictions for non motorized uses and no other significant resource concerns were identified. It appears that during public scoping concerns were raised around impacts to grazing. There are hundreds of miles of trails across the west that are located in grazing allotments and I've hiked and biked in many of them. Grazing and recreation can coincide and the only impacts I've seen is the cattle will take to the trails which can affect the trail tread. Also the grazing allotment is over 51,000 acres and the project area is just over 3,300 acres. The cows still have plenty of land to graze.

In closing alternative 2 meets the purpose and need of the project and the forest plan objective while meeting resource objectives and environmental constraints. Alternative 2 also provides for a diverse array of mountain biking opportunities for all levels of riders that will attract locals and visitors and will contribute to the local economy. Mountain biking is one of the fastest growing sports and this project would contribute greatly to the public being able to enjoy their public lands and I look forward to riding these trails with my family. Thank You,  
Brian Long