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Comments: Slater Turner

USDA-Forest Service

Ochoco National Forest

Dear Mr. Turner,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Draft EA for the Proposed Lemon Gulch Trails Project #58831. Enclosed are some thoughts, comments and concerns I have in regards to this project proposal.

1. lack of public input sought by the Forest Service prior to the development of the Lemon Gulch trails project.
2. A large part of the project area is managed under the General Forest Winter Range. The density of trail and road is not to exceed 3 miles per section. This project encompasses approximately 5.2 sections. In the EA none of the Alternatives reviewed discuss this density limitation nor does the Alternatives discussed in the EA even come close to this limitation.
3. The Forest Plan calls for detailed management plans for developed recreation to show how this development will be funded and maintained. This was not addressed in the EA or proposal.
4. The Need for more non-motorize trails on the Forest is clarified. The Need for high speed, downhill technical trails in Lemon Creek or on the Ochoco NF is not explained or clarified. Nor is the Need for three 35 vehicle parking lots explained or clarified.
5. There is lack of and data for both Grazing and Wildlife in the EA. Stating that wildlife will move elsewhere is not sufficient. Human interaction including biking have a negative impact on elk mating, calving and grazing. Trails too close to Lemon Creek water source for wildlife.
6. Insufficient science, data result in incomplete conclusions and lack of quality comparison of alternatives to display the impacts to the natural and human environments.
7. Process issues, insufficient science, connected actions, Forest Plan inconsistencies call for an Environmental Impact Statement with comprehensive, organized, and meaningful public involvement which has been asked for repeatedly.

In conclusion, I am in opposition to the Lemon Gulch Trails Project in the Ochoco National Forest and believes as a result of these issues the Forest Service choose Alternative 1 or No Action.

MR