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First name: Karen

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Slater Turner and the Ochoco National Forest,

I would like to voice my opposition to additional mountain biking trails in the Ochoco National Forest. I am supporting Alternative 1 -- 0 miles of new trails in the Lemon Gulch area. Mountain bikes already overrun many parts of the Ochoco National Forest, and drastically reduce enjoyment of this public resource by other users. It is difficult to hike up to Lookout Mountain without being driven off the trail by speeding mountain bikers.

I am a hiker and a hunter, and I am worried about deer and elk habitat in the Lemon Gulch area. Mule deer populations are declining, and the increased disturbance by adding more mountain biking trails will further reduce calving, fawning, and security habitat. Although elk populations in this area may currently be stable, the additional invasion of mountain bikers will increase disturbance impacts that can only be detrimental.

So much of the National Forests in the Central Oregon area are already heavily used by mountain bikers. The Ochocos still have areas that are less impacted by mountain bikers, and therefore more available for hikers and wildlife. We don't need miles and miles of new mountain bike trails in the Lemon Gulch area.

Thank you for your consideration.