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First name: Matt

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Slater Turner and Ochoco National Forest staff,

I am writing to provide my support for the Lemon Gulch trail proposal. Central Oregon continues to grow, and the need to provide additional avenues for outdoor recreation are only going to increase.

The Lemon Gulch proposal is a well thought out, collaborative effort between multiple stake holders and user groups. As the population increases, the incidence of user conflicts on other trails (Round and Lookout Mountain in particular) are only likely to increase. The proposed trail system will provide more mountain bike specific trails closer to town and in a compact area. This will lessen pressure on trails that were not designed for mountain bikes. In addition, these proposed trails will be steep and technical, a type of riding that is not found in other locations in Central Oregon. As an active crew leader and trail builder for COTA the need for additional steep and technical trails cannot be overstated. Option 2 provides the most varied opportunities to fulfill this need.

The economic benefits of this proposal should also be considered. Mountain bikers like food and beer and will provide an economic benefit to restaurants, bars, and breweries in Crook county.

There has been some concern about ranching interests (grazing) and the development of this trail system. There are multiple areas in and around Central Oregon where cows and mountain bikes share the same general area with minimal conflicts and I suspect that will also be the case at Lemon Gulch if approved.

Thank you for your consideration.