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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi there! As a farmer who supports the protection of our ecosystems, I ask you to please safeguard our forest area. Please do not degrade this wonderful forest region. Please drop the proposed project of Lemon Gulch bike trail development.

Dropping this plan for a large trail system would protect the ecology, and avoid issues such as wildlife disturbance; steep slope erosion potential; plant cover removal and potential harm to sensitive plants; impacts to streams such as introducing excess fine sediment into Lemon Creek and tributary streams; and causing introduction of invasive exotic plants.

These are my concerns about the project:

There would be spring, summer, and fall disturbance of already declining Mule deer, as well as elk.

Proposed mountain bike trails are currently planned for location on steep slopes directly over Lemon Creek, the only perennial creek directly reaching Mill Creek trout habitat in the area, with trail crossings of the creek and drainages. This could increase soil erosion and sedimentation of Lemon Creek, with downstream excess fine sediment potentially reaching Mill Creek, which would be detrimental to Redband trout and Columbia Spotted frog.

We are concerned by the cumulative impacts to already severely degraded stream, seep, and spring systems due to heavy past logging, planned additional commercial logging in the Mill Creek sale, livestock grazing, and the proposed large scale, high density mountain bike trail system. Please oppose this project.

Thanks for your time and consideration!