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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Slater Turner and the Ochoco National Forest,

I would like to share my support for the proposed Lemon Gulch trail system.

A National forest campaign that I truly enjoyed recently, "It's All Yours", highlights that the forest are supposed to be for everyone. However, many of our vast forests do not have the infrastructure in place to make it sustainable, safe, and accessible to all of the various user groups who should be able to enjoy our forest. The Lemon Gulch proposal represents a great opportunity to open a small portion of the Ochoco Forest to a user group that is currently underrepresented there. It also helps to begin to fulfill the need for recreational opportunities in the Ochocos as specified in the 1989 Forest plan that called for 468 miles of non-motorized trails (only 156.5 miles currently exist).

The other part of the "It's All Yours" campaign, which is maybe not as clear but equally important, is the need to take some personal ownership. As a mountain biker, I believe that most of the mountain bike community takes that idea to heart and looks to help maintain not just the trails but wants to see animal habitats and the communities we visit while riding, flourish. Reading through the Environmental Assessment I was extremely happy to see that all plans are expected to have a low impact while providing unique riding opportunities for riding. The potential positive impact for the city of Prineville can not be overstated with tourism revenue and population health benefits being just the beginning. I understand that for some residents having "outsiders" around and that change, in general, is scary, but I hope they will be able to see the net benefit that will come.

Alternative 2 offers the most miles of trails, as well as the largest variety of riding, and therefore best achieves all of the goals outlined in the Environmental Assessment. I would strongly encourage the USFS to proceed with Alternative 2.

Thank you for your consideration,

Austin