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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Slater Turner and the Ochoco National Forest,

The most important consideration for developing these trails is to meet the required amount of trail use in the forest. Time is of the essence. Waiting another generation to reach the required 468 miles (by 2009), is inappropriate. Option number two comes closest to meeting this need.

Additionally, concentrating this use in one area, minimizes impact of increased users, reduces the environmental impact of users driving to different locations, encourage his volunteers to come and maintain the trails.

You can see evidence of this in the dedicated trails near Sandy, Oregon where downhill trails are present in a concentrated area. Hood River has a downhill trail area. Oakridge has a concentrated downhill area. Bend has an area. I have cycled all of these areas and they are well-maintained by the user groups. This mitigates user conflicts. Informed user groups work out difficulties with other users.

For reference, my partner and I typically ride over 6000 miles a year, the bulk of it on cross country rides on gravel roads and trails in Oregon and Washington. We are not downhill users ourselves, but can see the benefits of the concentrated location of a group of trails with dedicated users, particularly one close to a small town, in this case Prineville, but to some degree Mitchell as well. The economic benefits to these communities are wonderful. As residents of a large city in Oregon, we spend significant money in various small communities throughout the region. It is generally deeply appreciated by the communities we ride through.