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First name: Chad
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I'm in support of the Lemon Gulch trail system. Option 2 is what I'm in favor for because it provides the most bang for the buck. My understanding is this process began in 2017. For 5 years, a lot of time, money, and effort has been invested in getting a workable plan together to satisfy all the different interests who utilize the forest. Multiple meetings, multiple groups through the years. Now, as the implementation of the plan seems to be nearing the finish line, a boisterous, yet somewhat small minority seem to be able to derail the proceedings.

I've ridden many trail systems since I started riding in 2014. My go to system I ride is Phil's, but I've also been to Oakridge, Black Rock, Coos Bay, Madras, and Look Out Mountain. I have also ridden bike parks in Idaho, Bachelor, and Canada. Having another system close by will be a great addition to the many trail systems in Oregon. I would think that it will have the greatest impact on MTBer's who reside in or around Prineville. Recognizing the fact that having a great system right out your back door lends itself to increased sense of ownership. COTA, which I'm a member of, has proven itself over the years as a great trail steward. Heading up multiple volunteer outings, signage, and rider education concerning etiquette is an incredible asset to the Forest Service to help rely on. The understanding required to not only build trails, but maintain them is paramount. And having many people utilizing the trail system is not a hinderance, like many in opposition have voiced, but a way to keep an eye on the trail system itself. If there is a problem, its brought up and corrected straight away.
Option 2 provides for more diverse users. From small kids (my daughter has been riding since she was 5) that require the easier, green trails, to those craving the more demanding rigors of black trails. It seems silly to have gone through all the environmental studies, all the time and effort to map out and determine routes, etc, and only get a fraction of the area ridable. With 140 miles of 468 allowable trail miles, this seems to be an opportunity that should be maxed out.
All in all option 2 is a far superior choice. The work, expense, and time expended between multiple user groups to come up with the option is the only logical conclusion one can make.
Thanks.