Seth Crawford  
Crook County Commissioner  
300 NE Third Street, Room 10  
Prineville, OR 97754

Dear Mr. Crawford,

The Ochoco National Forest is interested in your comments regarding a proposal to expand the number of multi-use, non-motorized trails within the vicinity of the Lookout Mountain Recreation Area. The Lookout Mountain Trails proposal would create a 75.2 mile network of non-motorized multi-use trail on both existing and new trail miles; approximately 25 percent of the network would be new trail. Our staff has been working with various members of the community, including the Central Oregon Trail Alliance (COTA), to help develop this proposal. Your comments will help identify issues to be considered on the environmental review of this project.

Location

The Lookout Mountain Trail project is located on both the Lookout Mountain and Paulina Ranger Districts. The project area is in T13S, R19E and 20 E; T14S, R19E, 20E, 21E; T15S, R20E, 21E. Please refer to the enclosed maps for the trail locations.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to respond to the increased demand in non-motorized trail recreation on the Ochoco National Forest. The Lookout Mountain Trail project proposal responds to the direction in the Ochoco National Forest Land and Resource Plan which encourages mountain bike use (Forest Plan 4-25) both on the Forest and within the Lookout Mountain Recreation Area (Forest Plan, 4-183, 4-188). In addition, designating an official non-motorized trail system would discourage users from building unauthorized trails and thereby prevent unwanted resource damage. There is a need to expand the non-motorized trail network that allows multiple trail options, lessens congestion and reduces trail user conflict by expanding the available miles of non-motorized trails.

Proposed Action

Specifically, the proposal includes 35.4 miles of existing summer trail that would be linked to 4.6 miles of trail conversion on decommissioned roads, 3.9 miles of trail on road-to-trail conversion or within existing corridors of administratively closed roads, and 11.7 miles of trail in existing open road corridors linked by 17.6 miles of new trail for a total network of 75.2 miles. The majority of the new trail would be constructed along FS Roads 22 and 42 and within the Lookout Mountain Recreation Area. See attached map for the location of trails and a breakdown of the trail by trail development type.

The proposal uses old/decommissioned roads, creates trails within road corridors, and resurrects old infrequently used trail heads – all in an effort to minimize the disturbance yet increase the availability of sustainable non-motorized recreation carrying capacity. Within the existing network of trails and closed/decommissioned roads (54.9 miles) mountain bike use is currently permissible.
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### Preliminary Issues

Issues that are being considered include the effects of expanding trail density on wildlife habitat, wild horse management, late and old forest structure, existing recreation and water quality. New trails to be constructed would be designed to modern, sustainable trail best practices and trail construction techniques would include hand tools and small machinery. Volunteers would perform much of the trail construction. Completion of trail project planning and implementation would be dependent on internal resource capacity and external funding.

### Public Involvement

We are inviting your comments on this proposal. Your comments will be used to help us determine if these proposed activities are appropriate to implement or if alternate activities should be considered. Your comments would be most useful if they are focused specifically on issues pertaining to the proposed action and environmental consequences of the proposed action.

Comments may be mailed to our attention at 3160 NE Third Street, Prineville, OR, 97754, faxed to (541) 416-6695, or emailed to comments-pacificnorthwest-ochoco@fs.fed.us. Comments may also be hand-delivered between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments may be provided during normal business hours at (541) 416-6500. To be most useful, your comments on this proposed action should be received by the Ochoco National Forest on or before April 28, 2014.

For further information or questions regarding the proposed project, please contact Lynn Roby at 3160 NE Third Street, Prineville, OR 97754 or via telephone at (541) 416-6500.

Sincerely,

SANDRA HENNING  
District Ranger, Paulina Ranger District

SLATER TURNER  
District Ranger, Lookout Mountain Ranger District
File Code: 1950
Date: April 28, 2014

Chris Perry  
County Judge, Wheeler County  
PO Box 447  
Fossils OR 97830

Dear Mr. Perry,

The Ochoco National Forest is interested in your comments regarding a proposal to expand the number of multi-use, non-motorized trails within the vicinity of the Lookout Mountain Recreation Area. The Lookout Mountain Trails proposal would create a 75.2 mile network of non-motorized multi-use trail on both existing and new trail miles; approximately 25 percent of the network would be new trail. Our staff has been working with various members of the community, including the Central Oregon Trail Alliance (COTA), to help develop this proposal. Your comments will help identify issues to be considered on the environmental review of this project.

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For further information or questions regarding the proposed project, please contact Lynn Roby at 3160 NE Third Street, Prineville, OR 97754 or via telephone at (541) 416-6500.

Sincerely,

SANDRA HENNING  
District Ranger, Paulina Ranger District

SLATER TURNER  
District Ranger, Lookout Mountain Ranger District
Dear Interested Citizen,

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Sincerely,

SANDRA HENNING
District Ranger, Paulina Ranger District

SLATER TURNER
District Ranger, Lookout Mountain Ranger District
Don Gentry, Chair
Klamath Tribe
P.O.Box 436
501 Chiloquin Blvd.
Chiloquin, Oregon 97624

Dear Mr. Gentry:

The Ochoco National Forest is developing a proposal to expand the number of multi-use, non-motorized trails within the vicinity of the Lookout Mountain Recreation Area. The Lookout Mountain Trails proposal would create a 78.8 mile network of non-motorized multi-use trail on both existing and new trail miles; approximately 30 percent of the network would be new trail. Our staff has been working with various members of the community, including the Central Oregon Trail Alliance (COTA), to help develop this proposal. The Lookout Mountain Trail project is located on both the Lookout Mountain and Paulina Ranger Districts. The project area is in T13S, R19E and 20 E; T14S, R19E, 20E, 21E; T15S, R20E, 21E. Please refer to the enclosed maps for the trail locations.

This letter is provided in advance of public notification and the project is still in the development stage; more detailed information will be available as the project progresses.

In accordance with our government-to-government consultation we welcome any comments and assistance in determining the effects of this project on historic properties (prehistoric through historic resources of significance) as defined in 36CFR800.2e. Please contact us via mail or email, and include your comments or input in response to this letter. If you so request, we will provide information about our efforts to identify and protect historic properties at future public meetings on this project and offer field trips to the project area.
Charlotte Rodrique, Chairperson
Burns Paiute Tribe
100 Pasigo Street
Burns, OR 97720

Dear Ms Rodrique:

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Stanley Smith  
Council Chairman  
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs  
P.O. Box C  
Warm Springs, Oregon 97761

Dear Mr. Stanley Smith, Council Chairman:

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An update on recreation planning

More people recreating on federal lands means it’s necessary to prepare for continued increases in recreation use

Despite the recent record amount of snow we received last month, Marc and April are out in woods, temperatures, and terrain, hoping for winter being on their radar. This month, I’d like to provide some updates on our recreation program for the Ochoco National Forest and the Crooked River National Grasslands.

One question we commonly receive is whether winter recreation is trending upward. Many people feel it has to be, as so many of us who work for the federal government, management agency, and depending on the location, can visit a location, changes to the location, and the actions of the public. Some recreation planning has recently been directed from National Parks to this goal. There are multiple points of entry, and on this is one, in a situation where management vehicles as they enter and leave.

We sometimes look to the cash receipt and variation of records and recreation use as one indicator. This only accounts for a portion of our equipment. Many data sets are fine and, currently, many administered leases and agreements are currently experiencing reduced recreation use. The exercise of reservation-use—and usage—has steadily increased 3 percent each year. The National Park Service and the Crooked River National Grasslands have thus far been able to meet recreation use demands with about 15 percent of the expected increase.

We’re undertaking other efforts relative to our inventory of current and past use. We’re using the Forest and Grass- lands, and new forest and grasslands surveying called National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM). Utilizing permitted visitors to help capture, provide, and manage data, analyzing, compiling, and summarizing insights to those who visited to provide visitors. The survey assesses to measure the various aspects of recreational visitation and produce descriptions of what types of activities people use, how much they’re spending, how much money they’re spending in local business- on their trip. The report is not yet available but will be posted to our website once it’s finalized.

We should test if we can just keep it there, year-round. Agree! We should do just that, and keep it there, year-round.

**Natural Resources**

**Management Act a good start**

**Senate Bill 17**

The Natural Resources Management Act recently passed both houses as part of a package of major federal legislation.

This bill includes Sen. Ron Wyden’s version of House Bill 735, "The Crooked River Ranch Fire Protection Act, introduced in the House by Rep. Greg Walden. Ron Wyden went on to thank both Sen. Wyden and Rep. Walden for their efforts to help prevent such a fire in the past and ensure protection across the upper river through passage of SB 47.

Sen. Wyden’s amendments to Rep. Walden’s bill improved wildfire protection through the release of 60 acres of Wildness Study Area while providing for 15-600 recreation and restoration on vessel areas.

There is the opportunity to build on the bill’s land and waterization and address other unmentioned issues in the area. The loss of 15-600 acre fire from the Crooked River Ranch, such as vandalism and the destruction of a major natural natural resources.

There is significant recreational, fishery, wildlife, scenic and archaeological.

**READERS LETTERS**

**Abolishing the electoral college?**

Watching the Field of American Politics, I was surprised to see a lot of interest in the idea of abolishing the electoral college. This is not a new idea. We have been discussing it for quite some time, and the general public has expressed a great interest in the idea.

The public’s interest is good, but we must weigh the pros and cons of such a proposal. First, we must consider the potential benefits of an abolition of the electoral college, and then we must consider the potential drawbacks.

In summary, the abolition of the electoral college would have significant benefits, but it would also have some drawbacks. I believe that the benefits outweigh the drawbacks, and I support the abolition of the electoral college.

Jim Thompson

Jim Thompson is an independent political activist and writer for the Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas networks. He is the host of the political commentary program "The Daily Times." He is the son of the former governor of Texas, Jim Thompson. Jim can be reached at JImThompson@bfg.com. Thompson@freeserve.com.

Central Oregonian

Opinion & Letters

Guest opinion

Jim Zachary

Jim Zachary is the editorial page editor of the Central Oregonian. He is a former newspaper editor and writer for the Oregonian and the Portland Tribune. He is also the author of several books, including "The Oregonian: A History of the Oregonian and the Portland Tribune." He can be reached at JimZachary@bfg.com. He can be reached at JimZachary@bfg.com.
Jeffries:
From page A5

Patient and are able to analyze their unique
condition and find the best treatment options for them. The goal is to help people make informed decisions and feel more confident in their healthcare journey.

Serving veterans with the best possible care.

We know that military service may have some emotional and psychological effects. At Jeffries, we focus on providing support and encouragement with a variety of options.

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CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY
March 13, 2019 - March 16, 2019

Outfit a parade, hold an Irish dance competition, or get your best St. Patrick's Day-themed cocktails and appetizers ready! Let's raise a glass to the Irish heritage and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

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Outfit a parade, hold an Irish dance compet
Cecil Dick  
Chairman  
Burns-Paiute Tribe  
100 Pasigo Street  
Burns, OR 97720

Dear Chairman Dick:

The Ochoco National Forest is requesting consultation and input from the Burns Paiute Tribe for several trail development projects.

The Forest has been working with the Ochoco Trails Strategy Group (OTSG) over the last couple of years to develop proposals for sustainable trail systems that meet current demand for recreation opportunities. OTSG is a collaborative with representation from various user groups. Input from the Forest Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has helped focus the trail proposals and avoid areas of sensitive resource concerns, such as elk security habitat.

The following four projects are now under consideration for development on the Ochoco: Allen Creek Equestrian Trails, Dry Creek Equestrian Trails, Bandit Springs Summer Trails, and Corral Flat Equestrian Endurance Trail System. See the attached document for more detail and maps. We expect these trail projects to be analyzed and approved through a combination of Categorical Exclusions and Environmental Assessments, depending on the scope of resource issues that arise during public outreach. Public scoping is expected to begin this spring.

Under revised regulations for implementing the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian tribal officials and members are invited to comment and assist in how we determine the effects of proposed activities on historic properties (prehistoric through historic resources of significance) as defined in 36 CFR 800.2e. Your participation is encouraged throughout the Section 106 process, from first determining methods of identifying evidence of past human use and occupation of the area, and evaluating whether such resources would qualify as historic properties under NHPA. The final step after identifying historic properties is determining what effects, if any, the proposed project may have on any such historic property and how to reduce or eliminate those effects.

Some of the project area may be surveyed in the past for historic properties. Additional survey will be completed by the Forest Service and will be based on environmental factors that can affect past human use, and any input we receive from you. There is little ground disturbance associated with most of these projects, as they primarily occur on a combination of system ad user-created roads and trails.

Your comments about the development of this project or other concerns are welcome and would be considered in the decision. We welcome your input at any time during the project development and analysis; however, your comments would be most helpful if received by April 20, 2020. You may provide comments by mail or email. Please direct any confidential
comments to Penni Borghi, Forest Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison. If the information provided is confidential, it will not be included in the project record. General comments or feedback may be submitted by email to Beth.Peer@usda.gov or mailed to 3160 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754. Hand-delivered and oral comments may be delivered to the same address during normal business hours.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

A. SHANE JEFFRIES
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure
cc: Calla Hagle; Diane Teeman
Don Gentry, Chairman
Klamath Tribes
PO Box 436
Chiloquin, OR 97624

Dear Chairman Gentry:

The Ochoco National Forest is requesting consultation and input from the Klamath Tribes for several trail development projects.

The Forest has been working with the Ochoco Trails Strategy Group (OTSG) over the last couple of years to develop proposals for sustainable trail systems that meet current demand for recreation opportunities. OTSG is a collaborative with representation from various user groups. Input from the Forest Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has helped focus the trail proposals and avoid areas of sensitive resource concerns, such as elk security habitat.

The following four projects are now under consideration for development on the Ochoco: Allen Creek Equestrian Trails, Dry Creek Equestrian Trails, Bandit Springs Summer Trails, and Corral Flat Equestrian Endurance Trail System. See the attached document for more detail and maps. We expect these trail projects to be analyzed and approved through a combination of Categorical Exclusions and Environmental Assessments, depending on the scope of resource issues that arise during public outreach. Public scoping is expected to begin this spring.

Under revised regulations for implementing the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian tribal officials and members are invited to comment and assist in how we determine the effects of proposed activities on historic properties (prehistoric through historic resources of significance) as defined in 36 CFR 800.2e. Your participation is encouraged throughout the Section 106 process, from first determining methods of identifying evidence of past human use and occupation of the area, and evaluating whether such resources would qualify as historic properties under NHPA. The final step after identifying historic properties is determining what effects, if any, the proposed project may have on any such historic property and how to reduce or eliminate those effects.

Some of the project area may have been surveyed in the past for historic properties. Additional survey will be completed by the Forest Service and will be based on environmental factors that can affect past human use, and any input we receive from you. There is little ground disturbance associated with most of these projects, as they primarily occur on a combination of system ad user-created roads and trails.

Your comments about the development of this project or other concerns are welcome and would be considered in the decision. We welcome your input at any time during the project development and analysis; however, your comments would be most helpful if received by April 20, 2020. You may provide comments by mail or email. Please direct any confidential
comments to Penni Borghi, Forest Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison. If the information provided is confidential, it will not be included in the project record. General comments or feedback may be submitted by email to Beth.Peer@usda.gov or mailed to 3160 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754. Hand-delivered and oral comments may be delivered to the same address during normal business hours.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

A. SHANE JEFFRIES
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure
Raymond Tsumpti, JR  
Council Chairman  
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs  
PO Box C  
Warm Springs, OR 97761

Dear Chairman Tsumpti:

The Ochoco National Forest is requesting consultation and input from the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs for several trail development projects.

The Forest has been working with the Ochoco Trails Strategy Group (OTSG) over the last couple of years to develop proposals for sustainable trail systems that meet current demand for recreation opportunities. OTSG is a collaborative with representation from various user groups. Input from the Forest Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has helped focus the trail proposals and avoid areas of sensitive resource concerns, such as elk security habitat.

The following four projects are now under consideration for development on the Ochoco: Allen Creek Equestrian Trails, Dry Creek Equestrian Trails, Bandit Springs Summer Trails, and Corral Flat Equestrian Endurance Trail System. See the attached document for more detail and maps. We expect these trail projects to be analyzed and approved through a combination of Categorical Exclusions and Environmental Assessments, depending on the scope of resource issues that arise during public outreach. Public scoping is expected to begin this spring.

Under revised regulations for implementing the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian tribal officials and members are invited to comment and assist in how we determine the effects of proposed activities on historic properties (prehistoric through historic resources of significance) as defined in 36 CFR 800.2e. Your participation is encouraged throughout the Section 106 process, from first determining methods of identifying evidence of past human use and occupation of the area, and evaluating whether such resources would qualify as historic properties under NHPA. The final step after identifying historic properties is determining what effects, if any, the proposed project may have on any such historic property and how to reduce or eliminate those effects.

Some of the project area may have been surveyed in the past for historic properties. Additional survey will be completed by the Forest Service and will be based on environmental factors that can affect past human use, and any input we receive from you. There is little ground disturbance associated with most of these projects, as they primarily occur on a combination of system ad user-created roads and trails.

Your comments about the development of this project or other concerns are welcome and would be considered in the decision. We welcome your input at any time during the project development and analysis; however, your comments would be most helpful if received by April
20, 2020. You may provide comments by mail or email. Please direct any confidential comments to Penni Borghi, Forest Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison. If the information provided is confidential, it will not be included in the project record. General comments or feedback may be submitted by email to Beth.Peer@usda.gov or mailed to 3160 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754. Hand-delivered and oral comments may be delivered to the same address during normal business hours.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

A. SHANE JEFFRIES
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure
Dear Reader:

The Paulina Ranger District of the Ochoco National Forest is proposing to create an equestrian trail system associated with the Allen Creek Horse Camp. The project area is located on the northeast side of Big Summit Prairie, about 40 miles east of Prineville, Oregon.

**Background**

The Allen Creek Equestrian Trails project is part of a larger suite of trail proposals submitted by the Ochoco Trails Strategy Group (OTSG). The Forest Service has been working with the OTSG over the last couple of years on the development of proposals for sustainable trail systems that meet current demand for recreation opportunities. OTSG is a collaborative group originally convened by the Prineville Chamber of Commerce. The group has representation from various who met from late 2017 through 2018 and held a public meeting about trail proposals in September 2018. Input from Forest Service specialists and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has helped focus the trail proposals and avoid areas of sensitive resource concerns, such as elk security habitat.

**Proposed Action**

This project would create about 20 miles of official trail system routes using open roads, closed roads, and livestock and user-created trails. This trail system would improve user experience, establishing an official trail system for Allen Creek Horse Camp, which currently has no designated trails associated with the infrastructure built for equestrians. The target user group is equestrians, though the Forest is considering allowing all non-motorized use.

Ground disturbance would be limited to installing 4” X 4” posts at trail entrances and to establish drainage dips and water bars. Closed roads would remain as two track, double-wide riding trails for side by side riding. Livestock and user-created trails would have a treat of 18 to 24 inches wide. Small trees (< 10” diameter) would be removed where encroaching on the trail tread prism. Signs and trail markers would be installed.

We expect this project to be documented with a Decision Memo and excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment of an Environmental Impact Statement.

**Invitation to Comment**

We welcome your thoughts and discussions about the Allen Creek Equestrian Trails Project as your input is a vital part of our planning process. Your comments are appreciated throughout the planning process; however, for your input to be timely and considered in project design, it would be most helpful if we receive your comments by June 1, 2020.

We strongly encourage you to submit comments electronically. Those wishing to provide electronic comments should use the Forest Service online comment system available at:
Comments may be typed into the online form, or uploaded as an attachment in Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf), or portable document format (PDF) only.

Comments may also be submitted in writing. Written comments should be sent or delivered to Johanna Kovarik, District Ranger, Paulina Ranger District, 3106 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754. Written comments may only be hand-delivered by appointment at this time, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and Executive Order by Governor Brown. Please call Beth Peer at 541-416-6463 if you wish to hand-deliver your comments.

This letter also serves as an invitation to participate in the Forest’s National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 process for the project.

Please see the attached maps for details on the location of this project. If you need additional information please contact Beth Peer at 541-416-6463 or beth.peer@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Johanna Kovarik
JOHANNA KOVARIK
District Ranger
Map 1 – Vicinity of the Allen Creek Trails Project on the Ochoco National Forest
Map 2 – Proposed Trails
Dear Reader,

The Lookout Mountain Ranger District of the Ochoco National Forest is proposing to create a multi-use summer trail system associated with the Bandit Springs Sno-Park and Trailhead and an equestrian trail system associated with Dry Creek Horse Camp. The Bandit Springs project area is located off Highway 26 about 30 miles northeast of Prineville, Oregon (Maps 1 and 2). The Dry Creek project area is located north of the Dry Creek Horse Camp, about 20 miles northeast of Prineville, Oregon (Maps 1 and 3).

Background

The Forest Service has been working with the Ochoco Trails Strategy Group (OTSG) since 2016 to develop proposals for non-motorized sustainable trail systems on the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland that meet current demand for recreation opportunities. OTSG is a collaborative with representation from various user groups, such as equestrians, hikers, and mountain bikers, as well as community members and volunteer organizations. The trails projects described below were presented to the Ochoco National Forest by OTSG.

Proposed Action

The Bandit Springs Summer Trails project would create approximately 6.5 miles of non-motorized summer trails for multiple uses including hiking, biking, and horseback riding. The summer trails would be built in the existing Bandit Springs non-motorized winter trail corridor. The winter trails currently have a cleared winter trail corridor but no tread; therefore, the proposal includes creating new tread (18"x36") within the most suitable area of the trail corridor. This project also includes re-treading 5.6 miles of existing non-motorized summer and winter multiple use trails (Ponderosa Loop Trail and McGinnis Creek Trail), installing 4"x4" signposts at trailheads and junctions, and removing any trees or brush less than 10 inches in diameter encroaching on the trails. All work would be completed with hand tools, chainsaws, and a mini excavator. Clearing obstacles, brush, and small trees for the summer trails would help facilitate skiing and snowshoeing in low-snow winters.

The Dry Creek Equestrian Trails project would designate approximately 5 miles of non-motorized system trails on closed roads in the vicinity of Dry Creek Horse Camp. There are designated system trails associated with Dry Creek Horse Camp; however, users often add mileage or add to their experience on closed roads. The OTSG has proposed these closed road routes be designated as official system trails with signage and reassurance trail markers. The closed roads would be left as two track, double wide riding trails for side by side riding. Trails would be open to all non-motorized uses but would be maintained for and by equestrian users. 4"x4" sign posts would be installed at trail entrances and junctions and drainage dips and water bars would be installed to reduce erosion and facilitate drainage.

Invitation to Comment

We welcome your thoughts and discussions about both the Bandit Springs Summer Trails project and the Dry Creek Equestrian Trails project. Your input is a vital part of our planning process and your comments are appreciated throughout the planning process. However, for your input to be timely and considered in project design, it would be most helpful if we receive your comments by June 21, 2020.

We strongly encourage you to submit comments electronically. Those wishing to provide electronic comments should use the Forest Service online comment system available at:
https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=58064. Comments may be
typed into the online form, or uploaded as an attachment in Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf), or
portable document format (PDF) only.

Comments may also be submitted in writing. Written comments should be sent or delivered to Elysia
Retzlaff, NEPA Planner, Ochoco National Forest, 3160 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754. Hand-
delivered comments will only be accepted by appointment due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.
Please call Elysia Retzlaff at 541-416-6436 if you would like to set up an appointment to hand-
deliver your comments.

This letter also serves as an invitation to participate in the Forest’s National Historic Preservation Act,
Section 106 process for the project.

Please see the enclosed map for details on the location of these projects. Maps of the project areas
and this scoping letter are also available online at http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58064. If
you need additional information, please contact Elysia Retzlaff at 541-416-6436 or
elysia.retzlaff@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
SLATER R. TURNER
District Ranger

Enclosure
Cecil Dick
Chairman
Burns-Paiute Tribe
100 Pasigo Street
Burns, OR 97220

Dear Chairman Dick:

The Ochoco National Forest is requesting consultation and input from the Burns-Paiute Tribe for a trail development proposal.

The Forest has been working with Ochoco Trails, a collaborative group with representation from various user groups on development of sustainable trail systems that meet current demand for recreation opportunities. The Lemon Gulch Mountain Bike Complex is now under consideration and the NEPA process will begin in calendar year 2021. Please see the attached document for more details and maps.

Under revised regulations for implementing the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian tribal official and members are invited to comment and assist in how we determine the effects of proposed activities on historic properties (prehistoric through historic resources of significance) as defined in 36 CFR 800.2e. Your participation is encouraged throughout the Section 106 process, from first determining methods of identifying evidence of past human use and occupation of the area, and evaluating whether such resources would qualify as historic properties under NHPA. The final step after identifying historic properties is determining what effects, if any, the proposed project may have on any such historic property and how to reduce or eliminate those effects.

Some of the project area may have been surveyed in the past for historic properties. Additional survey will be completed by the Forest Service and will be based on environmental factors that can affect past human use, and any input we receive from you. Your comments about the development of this project or other concerns are welcome and would be considered in the decision. We welcome your input at any time during the project development and analysis; however, your comments would be most helpful if received by December 31, 2020. You may provide comments by mail or email. Please direct any confidential comments to Penni Borghi, Forest Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison. If the information is confidential, it will not be included in the project record. General comments or feedback may be submitted by email to Beth.Peer@usda.gov or mailed to 3160 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754. Please call Beth Peer at 541-416-6463 to make arrangements if you’d like to submit hand-delivered or oral comments.

Sincerely,

SLATER TURNER
District Ranger

Enclosure

Caring for the Land and Serving People
Don Gentry  
Chairman  
Klamath Tribes  
PO Box 436  
Chiloquin, OR 97624

Dear Chairman Gentry:

The Ochoco National Forest is requesting consultation and input from the Klamath Tribes for a trail development proposal.

The Forest has been working with Ochoco Trails, a collaborative group with representation from various user groups on development of sustainable trail systems that meet current demand for recreation opportunities. The Lemon Gulch Mountain Bike Complex is now under consideration and the NEPA process will begin in calendar year 2021. Please see the attached document for more details and maps.

Under revised regulations for implementing the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian tribal official and members are invited to comment and assist in how we determine the effects of proposed activities on historic properties (prehistoric through historic resources of significance) as defined in 36 CFR 800.2e. Your participation is encouraged throughout the Section 106 process, from first determining methods of identifying evidence of past human use and occupation of the area, and evaluating whether such resources would qualify as historic properties under NHPA. The final step after identifying historic properties is determining what effects, if any, the proposed project may have on any such historic property and how to reduce or eliminate those effects.

Some of the project area may have been surveyed in the past for historic properties. Additional survey will be completed by the Forest Service and will be based on environmental factors that can affect past human use, and any input we receive from you. Your comments about the development of this project or other concerns are welcome and would be considered in the decision. We welcome your input at any time during the project development and analysis; however, your comments would be most helpful if received by December 31, 2020. You may provide comments by mail or email. Please direct any confidential comments to Penni Borghi, Forest Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison. If the information is confidential, it will not be included in the project record. General comments or feedback may be submitted by email to Beth.Peer@usda.gov or mailed to 3160 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754. Please call Beth Peer at 541-416-6463 to make arrangements if you’d like to submit hand-delivered or oral comments.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

SLATER TURNER  
District Ranger

Enclosure
The Lemon Gulch Mountain Bike Complex is a proposed system of up to 50 miles of trails specifically developed for mountain bikes to accommodate current and future use of local, regional, and destination riders.

This system would include at least one trailhead with parking and a toilet and kiosk. Signposts at trail entrances and junctions would also be required.

Tread construction would be 18 inches wide with turns up to 36 inches wide. A professional trails contractor using small machinery and hand tool would complete the work. The trails (shown on the map to the right) have been flagged on the ground to facilitate environmental analysis.
Raymond Tsumptic, Jr.
Council Chairman
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
PO Box C
Warm Springs, OR 97761

Dear Chairman Tsumptic:

The Ochoco National Forest is requesting consultation and input from the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs for a trail development proposal.

The Forest has been working with Ochoco Trails, a collaborative group with representation from various user groups on development of sustainable trail systems that meet current demand for recreation opportunities. The Lemon Gulch Mountain Bike Complex is now under consideration and the NEPA process will begin in calendar year 2021. Please see the attached document for more details and maps.

Under revised regulations for implementing the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian tribal official and members are invited to comment and assist in how we determine the effects of proposed activities on historic properties (prehistoric through historic resources of significance) as defined in 36 CFR 800.2e. Your participation is encouraged throughout the Section 106 process, from first determining methods of identifying evidence of past human use and occupation of the area, and evaluating whether such resources would quality as historic properties under NHPA. The final step after identifying historic properties is determining what effects, if any, the proposed project may have on any such historic property and how to reduce or eliminate those effects.

Some of the project area may have been surveyed in the past for historic properties. Additional survey will be completed by the Forest Service and will be based on environmental factors that can affect past human use, and any input we receive from you. Your comments about the development of this project or other concerns are welcome and would be considered in the decision. We welcome your input at any time during the project development and analysis; however, your comments would be most helpful if received by December 31, 2020. You may provide comments by mail or email. Please direct any confidential comments to Penni Borghi, Forest Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison. If the information is confidential, it will not be included in the project record. General comments or feedback may be submitted by email to Beth.Peer@usda.gov or mailed to 3160 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754. Please call Beth Peer at 541-416-6463 to make arrangements if you’d like to submit hand-delivered or oral comments.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
SLATER R. TURNER
District Ranger

Enclosure
Project Initiation

The Lookout Mountain Ranger District is beginning the planning process for the Lemon Gulch Trail System Project. The project area is located about 15 miles northeast of Prineville, Oregon in the Ochoco Mountains.

The proposal involves approximately 52 miles of non-motorized trails with primary use by mountain bikes but also open to hiking. More details of the proposal are provided on page 2.

The purpose of the project is to meet the needs of the community and the desire for new mileage, multiple loops, downhill riding opportunities, and trails designed and managed for mountain bike use.

Lemon Gulch area would meet the community’s need for an easily-accessible network of trails. The project is also expected to draw and more evenly distribute current and future mountain bike use from the high use areas of Lookout and Round Mountain. This would minimize interactions and improve the experience and safety of equestrians and hikers in these areas.

The proposal is in alignment with the Forest Plan objective that a managed trail system will be provided for a variety of uses, including hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, all terrain vehicles, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiles.

See page 4 for information on how to comment on this proposal.

Sustainable Recreation

The Lemon Gulch Trail System is part of a larger scale trails proposal developed through a collaborative process led by Ochoco Trails.

Ochoco Trails is a community-based coalition dedicated to building and maintaining a sustainable non-motorized trail system that offers a desirable range of experiences, while protecting and enhancing forest resources for future generations. Member organizations include: Central Oregon Trail Alliance, Oregon Equestrian Trails, Backcountry Horsemen of Oregon, Sawyers With Attitude To Spare, Oregon Wild, Discover Your Forest, Oregon Hunters Association, local ranchers, and Prineville Chamber of Commerce with participation and coordination with US Forest Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

As we move forward, Ochoco Trails is committed to providing resources for building and maintaining the trails.

For more information, see OchocoTrails.org.
Trails

The system would consist of a maximum of 52 miles of single-track trails, as shown on the map page 3. The trail system would follow the trail difficulty framework of Green Circle – Beginner, Blue Square – Intermediate, Black Diamond – Advanced, Double Black Diamond - Expert.

Trails would be built with a mini excavator and hand tools.


Trailheads and Facilities

Three trailheads and parking areas are proposed. One would be located at the bottom of the system near the 3360 and 3360100 road junction, one centrally located near the 3360 and 3360200 road junction, and one at the top along the 3360307. Signs would be installed to warn of frequent bike traffic on these roads.

Entry and junction signs would be installed on 4x4 posts. Installation of a CXT vault toilet is proposed at the bottom trailhead. Multi-panel kiosks would be constructed at each trailhead with maps, rules and regulations, and interpretive sign panels. Invasive plant prevent measure such as boot brush stations may also be included at trailheads.

The trail system would be built out over time and as the availability of grants, funding, and volunteer and employee labor allow. Priorities for build out include the two main arterial trails and two trails that would be designed for people with disabilities on adaptive mountain bikes as well as a few technical, downhill trails.

Maps and other information will be posted to the project web page as planning continues: https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58831

Ochoco Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan)

The Forest Plan has the following recreation goal: Provide for a variety of recreational experiences across all areas of the Ochoco National Forest, in a manner consistent with other resource objectives and environmental constraints. (LRMP 4-22).

Trails are proposed within the General Forest (MA-F22) and Winter Range (MA-F-20) management allocations. The management emphasis in General Forest is on the production of timber and forage while meeting Forest-wide standards and guidelines for all resources. The management emphasis in Winter Range is on managing for big game winter range habitat. Big game use on winter range is considered the primary activity with other human activities restricted from November 30 to May 1; therefore, trails in Winter Range MA would be closed to non-motorized use during this period to encourage wildlife utilization in the winter months.
Invitation to Comment

We are informing you about this proposal so that you can provide comments to us. Your comments and feedback will help provide valuable information used to identify issues and opportunities associated with this proposal. This notice marks the beginning of the scoping comment period. Please provide feedback by April 15, 2021. There will be an additional opportunity to provide comments when the environmental assessment is completed.

We strongly encourage you to submit comments electronically. Those wishing to provide electronic comments should use the Forest Service online comment system available at:
https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=58831. Comments may be typed into the online form, or uploaded as an attachment in Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf), or portable document format (PDF) only.

Comments may also be submitted in writing or in person. Written comments should be sent or delivered to Slater Turner, District Ranger, Lookout Mountain Ranger District, 3160 NE Third Street, Prineville, OR 97754. Hand-delivered and oral comments may be delivered to the same address after arranging an appointment.

Anyone wishing to obtain additional information on the project should contact Beth Peer, Environmental Coordinator, at Elizabeth.Peer@usda.gov or by phone (541)416-6463.

Thank you for your interest in the Ochoco National Forest and the Lemon Gulch Project. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Slater Turner
District Ranger

NOTICE: Documents associated with this project, including public comments, are part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process (40 CFR parts 1500-1509) and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 5 U.S.C. 552. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents or the eligibility to object.
The Lemon Gulch Trail System is part of a larger scale trails proposal developed through a collaborative process led by Ochoco Trails. Ochoco Trails is a community-based coalition dedicated to building and maintaining a sustainable non-motorized trail system that offers a desirable range of experiences, while protecting and enhancing forest resources for future generations. Member organizations include: Central Oregon Trail Alliance, Oregon Equestrian Trails, Backcountry Horsemen of Oregon, Sawyers With Attitude To Spare, Oregon Wild, Discover Your Forest, Oregon Hunters Association, local ranchers, and Prineville Chamber of Commerce with participation and coordination with US Forest Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

As we move forward, Ochoco Trails is committed to providing resources for building and maintaining the trails.

Learn more at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/.../nepa/114478_FSPLT3_5601634.pdf
March 20, 2021 Twitter

ONFCRNG -Ochoco NF & Crooked River

Interested in #mountainbaking trails in Central Oregon? Check out this new project planned by the Ochoco Trails group:

fs.usda.gov/r6/11558/www/

ONFCRNG -Ochoco NF & Crooked River NG @OchocoNatFor... · Mar 20

Thanks to @KATUNews for chatting with our partner organization DiscoverYourForest about #responsiblecreation in Central Oregon for spring break! We welcome visitors and encourage folks to watch & remember these suggestions for keeping each other safe! katu.com/features/trave...

Birdwatching
All about birdwatching

Environmentalism
All about environmentalism

Wildlife photography
Art

Nature
All about nature

Seattle
City in Washington State

Show more
Hi Roy, Shelley and Don!

Please find the attached notice for the trail proposal in Lemon Gulch which is up Mill Creek area. Since you are getting the notice late, your time to respond will be extended to April 30. We are also mailing you a hard copy to review. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Tory Kurtz  
Rangeland Management Specialist  
Forest Service  
Lookout Mtn RD/Crooked River NG  
p: 541-416-6407  
c: [REDACTED]  
f: 541-416-6695  
tory.kurtz@usda.gov  
3160 NE 3rd Street  
Prineville, OR 97754  
www.fs.fed.us  

Caring for the land and serving people
**Project Initiation**

The Lookout Mountain Ranger District is beginning the planning process for the Lemon Gulch Trail System Project. The project area is located about 15 miles northeast of Prineville, Oregon in the Ochoco Mountains.

The proposal involves approximately 52 miles of non-motorized trails with primary use by mountain bikes but also open to hiking. More details of the proposal are provided on page 2.

The purpose of the project is to meet the needs of the community and the desire for new mileage, multiple loops, downhill riding opportunities, and trails designed and managed for mountain bike use.

Lemon Gulch area would meet the community’s need for an easily-accessible network of trails. The project is also expected to draw and more evenly distribute current and future mountain bike use from the high use areas of Lookout and Round Mountain. This would minimize interactions and improve the experience and safety of equestrians and hikers in these areas.

The proposal is in alignment with the Forest Plan objective that a managed trail system will be provided for a variety of uses, including hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, all terrain vehicles, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiles.

See page 4 for information on how to comment on this proposal.

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**Sustainable Recreation**

The Lemon Gulch Trail System is part of a larger scale trails proposal developed through a collaborative process led by Ochoco Trails.

Ochoco Trails is a community-based coalition dedicated to building and maintaining a sustainable non-motorized trail system that offers a desirable range of experiences, while protecting and enhancing forest resources for future generations. Member organizations include: Central Oregon Trail Alliance, Oregon Equestrian Trails, Backcountry Horsemen of Oregon, Sawyers With Attitude To Spare, Oregon Wild, Discover Your Forest, Oregon Hunters Association, local ranchers, and Prineville Chamber of Commerce with participation and coordination with US Forest Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

As we move forward, Ochoco Trails is committed to providing resources for building and maintaining the trails.

For more information, see [OchocoTrails.org](http://OchocoTrails.org).
Proposed Action

Trails
The system would consist of a maximum of 52 miles of single-track trails, as shown on the map page 3. The trail system would follow the trail difficulty framework of Green Circle – Beginner, Blue Square – Intermediate, Black Diamond – Advanced, Double Black Diamond - Expert.

Trails would be built with a mini excavator and hand tools.


Trailheads and Facilities
Three trailheads and parking areas are proposed. One would be located at the bottom of the system near the 3360 and 3360100 road junction, one centrally located near the 3360 and 3360200 road junction, and one at the top along the 3360307. Signs would be installed to warn of frequent bike traffic on these roads.

Entry and junction signs would be installed on 4x4 posts. Installation of a CXT vault toilet is proposed at the bottom trailhead. Multi-panel kiosks would be constructed at each trailhead with maps, rules and regulations, and interpretive sign panels. Invasive plant prevent measure such as boot brush stations may also be included at trailheads.

The trail system would be built out over time and as the availability of grants, funding, and volunteer and employee labor allow. Priorities for build out include the two main arterial trails and two trails that would be designed for people with disabilities on adaptive mountain bikes as well as a few technical, downhill trails.

Maps and other information will be posted to the project web page as planning continues:
https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58831

Ochoco Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan)
The Forest Plan has the following recreation goal: Provide for a variety of recreational experiences across all areas of the Ochoco National Forest, in a manner consistent with other resource objectives and environmental constraints. (LRMP 4-22).

Trails are proposed within the General Forest (MA-F22) and Winter Range (MA-F-20) management allocations. The management emphasis in General Forest is on the production of timber and forage while meeting Forest-wide standards and guidelines for all resources. The management emphasis in Winter Range is on managing for big game winter range habitat. Big game use on winter range is considered the primary activity with other human activities restricted from November 30 to May 1; therefore, trails in Winter Range MA would be closed to non-motorized use during this period to encourage wildlife utilization in the winter months.
Invitation to Comment

We are informing you about this proposal so that you can provide comments to us. Your comments and feedback will help provide valuable information used to identify issues and opportunities associated with this proposal. This notice marks the beginning of the scoping comment period. Please provide feedback by April 15, 2021. There will be an additional opportunity to provide comments when the environmental assessment is completed.

We strongly encourage you to submit comments electronically. Those wishing to provide electronic comments should use the Forest Service online comment system available at: https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=58831. Comments may be typed into the online form, or uploaded as an attachment in Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf), or portable document format (PDF) only.

Comments may also be submitted in writing or in person. Written comments should be sent or delivered to Slater Turner, District Ranger, Lookout Mountain Ranger District, 3160 NE Third Street, Prineville, OR 97754. Hand-delivered and oral comments may be delivered to the same address after arranging an appointment.

Anyone wishing to obtain additional information on the project should contact Beth Peer, Environmental Coordinator, at Elizabeth.Peer@usda.gov or by phone (541)416-6463.

Thank you for your interest in the Ochoco National Forest and the Lemon Gulch Project. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Slater Turner
District Ranger

NOTICE: Documents associated with this project, including public comments, are part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process (40 CFR parts 1500-1509) and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 5 U.S.C. 552. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents or the eligibility to object.
Good morning.

Thanks for talking with me this morning about your concerns with our planning process. I'd like to share the Forest Service's web page that provides information about our ongoing planning projects.

This web page provides information about each project that is in the works:
https://www.fs.fed.us/projects/ochoco/landmanagement/projects

You will see from the screen shot of the web page I posted below, that you can get email updates by entering your email address in the box and clicking on "submit."

You will then receive notifications that are sent out when a project begins, an environmental assessment is available for review and comment, or when a decision is made.

Beth Peer
Environmental Coordinator
Forest Service
Ochoco National Forest
p: 541-416-6463
elizabeth.peer@fs.fed.us
3160 NE Third Street
Prineville, OR 97754
www.fs.fed.us

Caring for the land and serving people