Section I

OVERVIEW

The Ochoco Trails is a coalition of mountain bike riders, equestrians, hikers, hunters, ranchers, and business people from the Prineville area. We came together to develop a grassroots, non-motorized community trails plan for the Ochoco National Forest because we recognize that a vibrant trails network makes Prineville and Crook County a more attractive place to live and work, allows our residents to reap the health benefits of outdoor recreation, and encourages visitors to come enjoy our beautiful area.

We also recognize the ecological uniqueness and importance of the Ochocos. In light of population growth and what will certainly be significantly increased use, it is imperative that we are proactive in developing a sustainable recreation program. We believe this trails proposal represents a sustainable trail network that will provide attractive recreation opportunities, connect local residents and visitors with the Ochoco National Forest, and reduce trail conflicts while protecting wildlife habitat and preserving the unique characteristics of the Ochoco National Forest for generations to come.

The Ochoco Trails

The Ochoco Trails includes representatives from the Central Oregon Trails Alliance (a mountain biking group), Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, Oregon Equestrian Trails, and the Oregon Hunters Association, as well as hikers, local ranchers, business owners, conservationists, and the Prineville/Crook County Chamber of Commerce. The Ochoco National Forest also provided significant staff participation at and between Ochoco Trails meetings.

Ochoco Trails Vision

We collaborate to create and maintain a sustainable range of opportunities for non-motorized trail experiences that help protect and enhance the forest resources we all value for future generations.

Ochoco Trails Goals

- Develop a well-constructed, well-maintained trail network that offers a quality experience for diverse groups;
- Develop and implement a sustainable trail network that is designed to avoid impacts to critical wildlife habitat and other resource values;
- Create a system for funding/supporting trail construction and maintenance;
- Promote trails and recreational opportunities that provide our community with economic and health benefits;
- Facilitate the safety of all trail users.

The Proposal Development Process

Collaboration

This trails proposal was developed collaboratively by the equestrians, hikers, mountain bike riders, ranchers, hunters, and business people who came together to form the Ochoco Trails. The proposal was developed in rough form, presented to the wider community, and refined based upon the comments received from the public. The Prineville-Crook County Chamber of Commerce provided professional facilitation services, a meeting space, and lunches for the group from late 2017 through 2018.

Community Outreach

The proposal was shared with the community in an open house in late September 2018. We estimate that about 100 people attended the meeting, reviewed the maps, voted on their favorite projects, and provided comments. Several people also provided comments via email after the public meeting. The only negative feedback we received came from five or six people who wanted to deter visitors from coming to the Ochoco National Forest, and/or who wanted to open all forest roads to OHV use. Otherwise, the proposal was very enthusiastically received. The Ochoco Trails used the comments offered by open-house attendees to further refine the proposal before finalizing it for delivery to the Forest Service.

Ochoco Trails' Role Going Forward

Submitting this proposal to the Forest Service is only the first step for Ochoco Trails. As the Forest Service considers the proposal and begins its environmental analyses, Ochoco Trails expects to:

- Maintain an ongoing dialogue with the Forest Service to shepherd the proposal to implementation;
- Add an element to the proposal that includes trails on the Crooked River Grasslands;
- Develop the resources and volunteers to help build, sign, and maintain these trails;
- Assist in managing user conflicts as they arise.

The Trails Proposal

This proposal for a non-motorized trails network includes a variety of trail types, including bike/hiker, horse/hiker, and multi-use. Most of the trails are located near Prineville, with some on the Lookout Mountain Ranger District and some on the Paulina Ranger District. The planned trails are clustered to minimize impacts on wildlife habitat, and avoid riparian areas to the extent possible to protect these natural resources.

A Conceptual Framework

The trails proposal reflects the approximate locations or corridors within which Ochoco Trails members would like to see trails located. The trails in the proposal have not, for the most part, been GPS'd or ground-truthed. We understand that the locations of trails are likely to be modified, in some cases significantly, by the ground conditions identified by Forest Service biologists, archaeologists, and other resource experts as they conduct their environmental analyses.

OCHOCO TRAILS

This trails proposal consists of a map showing the locations and types of trails proposed, along with a description of each trail's attributes which are included below. The trail numbers on the map correspond with the numbers shown in the Trail Attribute section.

EQUESTRIAN		
Trail # and Name (if named)	Proposed Managed Use	Features, attributes, notes
MILL CREEK WILDERNESS TIE TRAILS The trails in the Mill Creek Wilderness do not make loops. By adding the trails noted below, equestrians, hikers, and backpackers will be able to complete several loops of varying lengths.		
Trail 1 – Bingham to Whistler	Multi-use	Same as hiker trail 1. See hiker trail pages for additional information. From Bingham Springs, would make sense to go north to Old Spur and connect east to 404 road – this alternative is mapped.
Trail 2 – White Rock to Wildcat	Multi-use	Same as hiker trail 2. See hiker trail pages for additional information. Alternative routing mapped in the White Rock/Wildcat area. Real issue is to create a loop – actual alignment doesn't matter.
DRY CREEK HORSE CAMP TRAIL COMPLEX This horse camp does not have enough trails to make it an attractive weekend destination. The additional trails below will provide additional riding opportunities and increase use at this horse camp. Note that while these are designated multi-use trails, we feel strongly that the existing central trail that bisects the Giddy Up Go loop has too many blind corners to be safe for bicycle use. This central trail should be designated for equestrian and hiker use only.		
Trail 3 – Dry Creek Add-ons	Multi-use	Series of small loops off the Giddy Up Go Trail. Just to add more mileage, vistas and diversity. Stacked loop formation, primarily on existing forest roads.
Trail 4 Dry Creek – Brennan Palisades Loop	Multi-use	Loop trail from Dry Creek Horse Camp to Brennan Palisades, to the top of the Palisades, and back.
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN TRAIL The purpose of this proposed trail is to separate the uses and route equestrian traffic off the dangerous switchback on the west end of the top of Lookout Mountain.		
Trail 5 – Lookout Mtn/North Point	Equestrian and hiker	Section of Lookout Mtn. Trail that includes North Point. Want to reopen an historic trail to provide a safe route for equestrian use. Bike riders value the existing trail, and wish to retain it. The Lookout Mountain Trail has high value because of its vistas and spring wildflowers.

EQUESTRIAN		
Trail # and Name (if named)	Proposed Managed Use	Features, attributes, notes
CORRAL FLAT ENDURANCE TRAIL COMPLEX This trail complex is currently used for the annual Bandit Springs Endurance Ride under an annual permit, but they are not official trails. Corral Flat is a popular equestrian dispersed camping spot, and functions as the trailhead for the endurance trails.		
Trail 6 – Endurance Trails	Equestrian	Large complex of trails currently used for the Bandit Springs Endurance Ride. Just need to be signed and made into official trails. Many trails. (Note: Proposed OHV trails cut right through this area. We believe that there is a need for slow travel through here.) **Note:** *The FS at one point had these trails mapped.*
ALLEN CREEK HORSE CAMP TRAIL COMPLEX Allen Creek Horse Camp currently has no designated trails in the vicinity and as a result gets very little use. Establishing a complex of official trails will provide recreational opportunities for the equestrian community and increase the use of the existing camping facility.		
Trail 7 – Allen Creek Horse Camp	Equestrian	The indicated trails explore the area around Allen Creek Horse Camp and are intended to offer a full weekend of riding for horse campers.
HASH ROCK TRAIL COMPLEX These trails provide non-wilderness travel opportunities west of the Mill Creek Wilderness. They run almost entirely on decommissioned forest roads, and feature open pine forest, meadows, and scenic views.		
Trail 8 – West Fork of Mill Creek/Squirrel Ridge	Multi-use	West Fork of Mill Creek/Squirrel Ridge. Loops, almost entirely on Forest roads. Provide pretty forest and meadows, close to Wildcat so can use that trailhead to access them.
Trail 9 – Miner's Gulch Loop (Whiskey Pit)	Multi-use	Starting at JB Corrals on 33 Road, goes up Miner's Gulch to the mine, then two loops – one toward Harvey Gap and one shorter loop. Easy day ride from town. Good town access, good parking. 16-17 miles from town. Want to take them past the mine shaft. Almost all on decommissioned Forest Roads.
Trail 10 – Hash Rock Loop	Multi-use	Close to town, open Ponderosa Pine forest and vistas from old Hash Rock lookout. Start at Whiskey Pit; adequate parking there.

OCHOCO TRAILS

HIKING		
Trail # and Name (if named)	Proposed Managed Use	Features, attributes, notes
MILL CREEK WILDERNESS TIE TRAILS The trails in the Mill Creek Wilderness do not make loops. By adding the trails noted below, equestrians, hikers, and backpack-ers will be able to complete several loops of varying lengths.		
Trail 1 – Bingham to Whistler (same as equestrian trail 1)	Multi-use	Connector between Twin Pillars trailhead and Wildcat Trail-heads. Outside the wilderness to make it easy to maintain to use chainsaws, paralleling Rd. 27. Connects these trails to make a longer loop option for hikers/backpackers, equestrians and runners. Safety benefits. Runners, hikers, backpackers and hunters are currently using these trails. Twin Pillars is relatively heavily used and Belknap is relatively heavily used – will disperse usage.
Trail 2 – White Rock to Wildcat (same as equestrian trail 2)	Multi-use	Connecting White Rock campground to Wildcat campground making a loop following Twin Pillars to Belknap then south on Wildcat trails. This connecting trail would be outside the Wilderness, so it's easily cleared. Gorgeous area. Twin Pillars is relatively heavily used, and Belknap is relatively heavily used – will disperse usage.
POTLID TRAIL COMPLEX The trails below would open up additional hiking opportunities by connecting with the Potlid Trail.		
Trail 11	Multi-use	Currently an out and back trail; this proposal makes a loop. It would follow the current trail for the first mile where there are gorgeous views over into the John Day Canyon and north along the Cascades to Mt Adams. The hiker/horse trail proposal would then follow current roads around the mountain returning along the south side with great views across to the Central Oregon Cascades.
Trail 12	Multi-use	Connector to connect Trail 1 above to Trail 2 above, to open up more opportunities. Opens more usage – not used much now.
WALTON LAKE AREA Placeholder		
N/A	Multi-use	The only trail near the campground is around the lake. Desig-nated trails should be developed.
BLACK CANYON WILDERNESS The connector trails noted below around the Black Canyon Wilderness would create attractive loop opportunities.		
Trail 13	Multi-use	Link Wolf and South Prong trailheads
Trail 14	Multi-use	Link Boeing and Rock Creek trailheads.
Trail 15	Multi-use	Link Mascal and Rock Creek TH

MOUNTAIN BIKING		
Trail # and Name (if named)	Proposed Managed Use	Features, attributes, notes
Trail 16 Round Mountain Lookout Mountain Connection	Multi-use	Connectivity between Lookout and Round Mountain to get people off the main road. Connectivity between two major trails. Safety = get people off major paved road. Safety is main emphasis but also the longer ride. About 60% is existing, closed road, which seemed to be the best way to avoid the riparian and avoid opening up previously undisturbed area. Also avoids some steeper areas.
Trail 17 Potlid and Scotty /Cougar Connection	Multi-use	*Same area as one of the equestrian trails* Creates a connectivity loop between North Potlid TH to Scotty Creek south TH and Cougar West TH. Incorporates historic trails and views along the way. Most is decommissioned roads. Bruce Williams has GPS for a lot of this.
Bandit Springs Trail Complex This trail network would utilize the existing Bandit Springs winter trails with the existing Cougar and Scotty Creek trails.		
Trail 18	Mountain biking	Connection from Cougar Creek to Bandit Springs area. Existing facilities at Bandit Springs. Make it more of an official trailhead rather than having the sketchy turn off Hwy 26 to access current trailhead. Would be good for hikers and x-country skiers too. These would likely all be green / easy trails but there may be opportunity to create intermediate or blue sections.
Trail 19	Mountain biking	Bandit Springs. Converting the winter trails to summer use. Family-friendly loops right off the highway. Already some existing summer use. These would likely all be green / easy trails
Trail 20 Walton-Bandit Loop	Mountain biking	Long XC loop connecting Walton Lake to Bandit Springs. By creating this connection users are able to camp at one location (Walton Lake) and access Round Mountain, Lookout Mountain, and Bandit Springs (and therefore Cougar Creek) all via single track. The Walton-Bandit loop itself would create an approximately 20-30 mile XC trail ride, with less elevation gain and of easier difficulty than the Round-Lookout Loop.
Trail (complex) 21 - Scotty Creek - Cougar Creek Trail Complex This trail network would be concentrated around the Scotty Creek and Cougar Creek basin. Already existing trails, shared trailhead, easy (if not close-to-town) road access, a large amount of potential expandable terrain, large vertical relief, and less user group conflict make this an ideal area for a modern trail network. The concept of this network is a series of primarily downhill directional MTB trails which begin and end at the same trailhead (or close to it). Each downhill trail would present a specific riding style and difficulty, ie. Easy, Intermediate, Difficult, Very Difficult, & Technical or Flow (typically refers to jump trails, so the emphasis in the Ochocos is on technical natural terrain). Additionally there would be a primary climbing trail to create potential for long loops without shuttling or riding gravel roads. Taken as a whole it presents a progressive, concentrated trail network. Bandit Trails would also effectively be considered part of this complex due to their proximity and connectivity to Cougar Creek		

OCHOCO TRAILS

MOUNTAIN BIKING		
Trail # and Name (if named)	**Proposed Managed Use**	**Features, attributes, notes**
Note: Trail descriptions below are only an example of how this may be laid out. On-the-ground planning would be required to adequately determine the specific difficulty and style of each trail based on the terrain and most trails would not be strictly flow or tech but would emphasize one or the other. Typically trail networks which exist further from urban populations tend towards a higher level of difficulty, since those are the riders more likely to make the effort to visit them. This is reflected below.		
Scotty Creek (existing trail for reference in how it fits in the plan)	Mountain biking	Intermediate (blue) DH trail. Somewhat steep but non-technical. Minimal re-routes would convert this to an beginner (green) DH with intermediate optional lines
Grant Plunge	Mountain biking	Very Difficult (double black), technical DH trail, splits off from Upper Scotty down the very steep ridge to the east.
Scotty Spine	Mountain biking	Difficult (Black), technical DH.
Scotty Climb Trail	Mountain biking	Uphill route and Beginner (Green) DH route. Flow. Option to convert this to uphill-only traffic if increased traffic calls for that in the future.
Off the Rails	Mountain biking	Difficult Tech DH, alternate Double Black options
Cougar Direct	Mountain biking	Intermediate (blue) Tech DH
Grant creek	Mountain biking	Intermediate (blue) Flow DH

Trail (complex) 22 - Potlid Trail Complex

This trail network would be concentrated around the Potlid Trail area. To a lesser degree the Potlid area shares many attractive attributes to Scotty Creek - existing trail, shared trailhead, easy (if not close-to-town) road access, a large amount of potential expandable terrain, large vertical relief. The concept of this network is the same as the Scotty Cougar area - a series of primarily downhill directional MTB trails which begin and end at the same trailhead. Each downhill trail would present a specific riding style and difficulty, ie. Easy, Intermediate, Difficult, Very Difficult, & Technical or Flow (typically refers to jump trails, so the emphasis in the Ochocos is on technical natural terrain). Additionally there would be a primary climbing trail to create potential for long loops without shuttling or riding gravel roads. Taken as a whole it presents a progressive, concentrated trail network.

Note: Trail descriptions below are only an example of how this may be laid out. On-the-ground planning would be required to adequately determine the specific difficulty and style of each trail based on the terrain and most trails would not be strictly flow or tech but would emphasize one or the other. Typically trail networks which exist further from urban populations tend towards a higher level of difficulty, since those are the riders more likely to make the effort to visit them. This is reflected below.		
Potlid Trail (existing trail for reference in how it fits in the plan)	Mountain biking	Intermediate (blue) Tech DH
Potlid Climb Trail	Mountain biking	Uphill route and Beginner (Green) DH route. Flow. Option to convert this to uphill-only traffic if increased traffic calls for that in the future.
Oven Mitt	Mountain biking	Intermediate (blue) Flow DH
Double Boiler	Mountain biking	Very Difficult(double black), technical DH trail
Pie Pan	Mountain biking	Difficult (Black), technical DH.
Ramekin	Mountain biking	Difficult (Black), technical DH.
Slap Chop	Mountain biking	Intermediate (blue) Tech DH

OCHOCO TRAILS

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Trail # and Name (if named)	Proposed Managed Use	Features, attributes, notes
Trail (complex) 23 - Lemon Creek Complex This trail network would be concentrated around the Lemon Creek area. While lacking existing trails, Lemon Creek presents a fantastic option for a trail network due to proximity to Prineville, shuttle-able access road, large amount of vertical relief, scenery and variable terrain. The concept of this network is the same as the other areas - a series of primarily downhill directional MTB trails which begin and end at the same trailhead. Each downhill trail would present a specific riding style and difficulty, ie. Easy, Intermediate, Difficult, Very Difficult, & Technical or Flow (typically refers to jump trails, so the emphasis in the Ochocos is on technical natural terrain). Additionally there would be a primary climbing trail to create potential for long loops without shuttling or riding gravel roads. Taken as a whole it presents a progressive, concentrated trail network.		
Note: Trail descriptions below are only an example of how this may be laid out. On-the-ground planning would be required to adequately determine the specific difficulty and style of each trail based on the terrain and most trails would not be strictly flow or tech but would emphasize one or the other. Typically trail networks which exist further from urban populations tend towards a higher level of difficulty, since those are the riders more likely to make the effort to visit them. This is reflected below.		
Lemon Ridge	Mountain biking	Intermediate (Blue) Blue DH. Natural Tech w/ some flow
Lemon Climb Trail	Mountain biking	Uphill route and Beginner (Green) DH route. Flow. Option to convert this to uphill-only traffic if increased traffic calls for that in the future.
Squirrel Ridge	Mountain biking	Intermediate (blue) Tech DH
Lemon drop	Mountain biking	Very Difficult(double black), technical DH trail
Pucker Face	Mountain biking	Difficult (Black), technical DH.
Orange Peel	Mountain biking	Difficult (Black), technical DH.
Lemon Creek	Mountain biking	Intermediate (blue) Tech DH
Adaptive MTB Trail (not numbered) For any of the above Trail networks, we would like to integrate one trail that can serve Adaptive Mountain Bikes. These are typically 3 or 4 wheel sit-on-top bikes. Adaptive trails require special design considerations, but shuttle-able downhill terrain (or a chairlift in most current examples) is a huge factor. A good example of an aMTB trail can be seen here: **https://youtu.be/WbIsmHZzyb8**		

OCHOCO TRAILS