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Submitted values are:

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Testimony:

I am writing in support of the North Tualatin Mountain Access Master Plan and its inclusion of single track access for off-road cycling.

There is currently a dearth of access for off-road cycling in the Portland Metro area, so it is great to see an opportunity for expanding access for this growing group of trail users. Careful planning and the inclusion of input from experts in off-road cycling trail construction like the North West Trail Alliance can optimize use for all trail users and wildlife. Conscientious trail layout can at the same time enforce lower speeds to reduce user conflicts, while at the same time adding features to keep the routes fun for cyclists. Additionally, well designed trails will minimize erosion and stream crossings, by providing corridors for wildlife to move, and by leaving the canopy intact.

With the genesis of the Oregon Interscholastic Cycling League this year, more kids and teens will be looking for places close to home to train for their sport. Opportunities like the trails in this plan offer a great start for places to ride that don't require a long drive. The largest hurdle right now to get kids into cycling isn't the expense of a bike (which can be reasonably low for used equipment), it's lack of access to trails. Currently, kids have to find rides an hour out of the city to find good singletrack cycling opportunities (like Sandy Ridge). New trails close to the city of Portland, like those in the North Tualatin Mountains, will allow for nature-based recreation through off-road cycling without the prohibitive expense of a long car ride.

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