

Bridger-Teton National Forest
Comment for:
E-Bike Use Designation on Select Jackson Area Trails

Bridger-Teton National Forest:
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the BTNF E-Bike proposal.

I am a Victor, ID resident and I value the amazing backcountry of this area. I spend considerable time on the Bridger-Teton Forest. I am a hunter, hiker, backcountry skier, and a mountain biker. I see value in many ways of using and enjoying the backcountry in our backyard. I use and enjoy many of the existing trails on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

I recognize the need to offer opportunities for different user groups to access and recreate on Forest lands. But, I believe impacts on wildlife and habitat, and safety/congestion issues need to be addressed in terms of this E-Bike proposal.

Here are my concerns with this proposal.

1. The proposal states that “Wilderness, WSA, and sensitive wildlife areas are not being considered.” Sensitive wildlife habitat does exist adjacent to many of these trail systems, specifically the Big Munger Trail and the Horsetail Creek Trail. While E-Bikes are quieter than motorcycles, there is a strong potential for negative impacts on wildlife by allowing more bikes in the area for longer open seasons. Increased use into the late fall and early winter also has the potential for user conflicts.
I do not believe the open seasons should be extended in these areas due to potential impacts on critical habitat and wildlife, as well as user conflicts.
2. Safety and congestion on non-motorized trails are potential issues with allowing E-Bike use on existing trails. Mountain bikes and E-bikes travel at similar speeds downhill, but E-Bikes are much faster on the uphill. I have had several interactions with E-Bikes passing me quietly and at high speed on uphill sections of singletrack. These quiet/high speed passes were inconsiderate, but more importantly put me in a vulnerable position, forcing me to dismount and get out of the way quickly. The congestion and different speeds have safety and congestion issues which I believe need to be addressed.
3. If any aspects of this proposal are implemented, what is the process for making future changes? I feel that any of these proposed changes should be part of a bigger picture plan for current and future habitat protection and trail use on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Thank you,

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