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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am an equestrian with over 50 years riding experience. My primary form of activity is trail riding. I have ridden over 3000 GPS recorded miles in national, state and local parks across the USA. We horseback riders enjoy the wilderness areas, and share the trails with animals (both wild and domestic) hikers, and increasingly with bicycles. According to the posted trail signs, ALL must yield to horses. This is a safety issue. In my experience, there is a wide-spread lack of education or experience of the general public to horse reactions and things that "spook" or startle a horse. Horses, no matter how well trained or de-sensitized, will react when startled or threatened. They are "prey" animals with a well-developed flight response. I have had multiple encounters with cyclists on the trails, some good and some bad. The bad encounters are resulting from fast approaches from behind, coming too close to the horse, cresting a hill and racing down the slope while the horse was climbing the hill from the bottom side, or the unwillingness of the cyclist to stop and wait (even when asked) so that the horse may be brought under control. E-bikes are "assisted" technology. E-bikes have the ability to travel at even faster speeds than the average bicycle (up to 30 miles an hour) and by that virtue will have equestrian response times to dangerous situations shortened. The person most at risk in these situations is the person sitting on 1000 lbs of "I'm out of here". I respectfully request that only non-motorized or assisted vehicles be allowed to share the trails with those of us hikers, bikers and riders who want to experience nature in quiet solitude.