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EBIKES on Forest Service Land

E-Bikes (Electric motorized vehicles) should not be allowed on non-motorized trails.

At this time when more and more people are getting outside, it is wonderful that E-bikes exist to allow more access to the great outdoors. These are motorized vehicles and therefore should be confined to motorized trails.

Reasons are simple

1. They are faster and more powerful than non-motorized bikes-so they will bowl over those using their own power to get up steep terrain.

a.This will cause some to ride around slower non-motorized riders thereby damaging the flora around the trail.

b.On a steep trail, if a non-motorized rider is forced to stop, they will be unlikely to ride the rest of the way up the hill as momentum will be lost.

c.Safety is a key issue-faster speeds can result in accidents-and the usual victims are the people traveling more slowly. This is why motorized and non-motorized trails exist.

2.Because E-bikes are electrically powered, bikers will rev the engines and they will leave ruts and dislodge rocks. This erodes trails making less rideable for those who are truly non-motorized. This will create more work for the Forest Service in repair of trails. Look at photos of motorized trails vs non-motorized trails to get a sense of this.

3.Adding one more class of recreationists to areas prized by those who would like peace will create conflict and decrease the solitude desired by many on non-motorized trails.

Separation of uses limits conflicts and allows Forest Service Personnel to focus on other duties. Please refrain from allowing E-bikes (MOTORIZED VEHICLES) on non-motorized trails in the Forest. Allow them to explore the existing thousands of miles of motorized trails.