

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/4/2020 8:51:07 PM

First name: Ronda

Last name: Reynolds

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly oppose the proposed rule allowing electric motorized bicycles (e-bikes) on non-motorized trails. The proposed rule is unmanageable and will create safety issues and user conflicts on our trails, and further motorize America's backcountry wildlands.

E-bikes have a place on the roads and motorized trails of our federal lands, and they are currently allowed on many roads and trails across the country. They are motorized vehicles and should be managed as such. Interior agencies should halt this rulemaking process and use the powers they already have through existing rules and regulations to allow e-bikes on public lands, where appropriate, as a motorized use. They should not do this by perpetrating the fiction that motorized bikes are non-motorized.

The known and documented impacts of mountain bikes -- soil erosion, proliferation of trails, impacts to wildlife -- are amplified by the addition of electric motors. Electric motorized bicycles travel faster, farther, and with greater impact than non-motorized bicycles. Increased use in previously non-motorized areas would also create safety concerns and conflicts between trail users. Federal agencies must analyze impacts of this proposal under the National Environmental Policy Act and resource protection mandates, before simply opening all non-motorized trails to motors.