

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/8/2020 5:13:24 PM

First name: Thomas

Last name: Sharpton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thanks for updating e-bike rules. In the past there were two objections to e-mtn bikes. First, they were too heavy and eroded the trails. Current bikes, for example those made by Pivot, are sometimes lighter than manual mtn bikes. The prior 60 lb bikes are no longer made and are seldom seen on trails. The second objection concerned speed of the bikes, an issue which was resolved by cutoff speeds. I have to say that that was never necessary because the speed difference between the two types of bike manifests itself only on hill climbs. But it is very rare that e-bikes can go up steep hills over 12-15 mph; however manual bikes at downhill parks at Mammoth Mountain resort have been clocked over 60 mph. It seem that placing a speed limit on bikes on trails (a practice in use for decades in California's Marin County trails on Mt Tamalpais) is a more reasonable solution than trying to limit technology

Finally lets deal with the elephant in the room. The objections to e-bikes come predominantly from the equestrian community. In California the equestrian community also object to manual bikes so don't let their objection to e-mtn bikes single them out. Equestrians represent a much wealthier group with more political connections than the typical mtn biker. But for every equestrian on the trail, I see twenty or thirty times as many bike riders. The trails should be used by all and not become the exclusive playground of the wealthy. Let the equestrians pay for private trails and riding centers but if they want to use public trails then learn to live with multiple types of riders