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First name: Kristin

Last name: Combs

Organization: Wyoming Wildlife Advocates

Title: Executive Director

Comments: We would like to formally thank the U.S. Forest Service for classifying all three types of e-bikes as a motorized vehicle. Research continues to show speed and motorization are big factors in determining which recreational uses are most impactful to wildlife. Faster speeds lead to higher disturbance of animals like moose and grizzly bears. Wilderness areas are specifically supposed to be designated as areas where motorized uses are off-limits and should stay as such. If we are concerned about conserving wildlife and keeping solitude as a priority in non-motorized areas, then we should definitely keep e-bikes out of those areas.

We would ask that you manage all e-bike use under the 2005 Travel Management Rule, including performing NEPA analysis for any non-motorized trails designated for e-bike use in the future. Wildlife are running out of areas where they can safely live without impacts from humans. Increasing the number of places where e-bikes are permitted will certainly impact not only individuals but also populations over time as fewer areas of suitable habitat without disturbances will be available.

Please remember our commitment as a democratic society that has determined to protect areas from motorized use and commit to not continuing to degrade habitat that wildlife is dependent upon simply for recreational purposes.

We appreciate the opportunity to speak for our wildlife.