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First name: Byron

Last name: Prestridge

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The largest argument offered against e-bikes is that they will tear up trails like a motorcycle.

Counterpoints-Just because an e-bike has a max speed of 20mph does not mean it can go 20 mph in most situations. Uphill? Not unless you weigh 10 lbs. In technical sections? Not unless you have the skills to navigate appropriately. Tearing up the trails is an old argument that frankly hasn't been studied enough to validate but people keep using it. In 2019 Boulder County did a pilot study regarding e-bikes on trails and concluded "There is not much research on the impacts of e-bikes to physical trail conditions. The only study to date found that soil displacement resulting from eMTBs was not significantly different from mountain bikes, and both kinds of bikes cause significantly less damage compared to dirt bikes."

In the study, they also found that the average speed of a conventional bikes on trails was higher than that of e-bikes. There is plenty more in this study to refute the premise that cat1 e-bikes are bad for trails and other users. Sure, any individual on an e-bike can be a jerk but it's not the e-bike that made them that way and I would argue that they likely are that was with a conventional mountain bike as well.

For reference, here's a link to the study I mention: <https://assets.bouldercounty.org/.../e-bikes>