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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I'm writing in to voice my concerns about allowing e-bikes of any type on the same trails utilized by bicycles. I don't view e-bikes and bicycles as comparable and it opens up the potential for a degraded experience to the majority of those utilizing NFS trails. My main concerns revolve around preserving natural/scenic environment, congestion, speed, experience levels and trail degradation.

Sense of place: Trails are a place to enjoy the few pockets of wilderness available to bicycles and hikers. Motorized vehicles of any type further harm this experience.

Congestion: as an avid hiker and cyclist, a significant number of trails are currently popular with cyclists and hikers alike. Opening trails to e-bikes of any type removes the physical difficulty which has the potential to overload trails with users - both dangerous and anathema to being in the wilderness.

Speed: The potential for abuse is significant, e-bikes allow users to quickly accelerate and reach speeds significantly higher than all other trail users on the majority of sections of trail. This is it only a danger to the e-bike rider but to bicycles, hikers and most significantly dogs. There isn't an ability with current NFS staffing to realistically manage aggressive and reckless users. The most logical solution would be to prevent e-bikes from being used on trails used by bicycles and hikers.

Skill levels: Opening up trails to e-bikes has the potential for inexperienced riders lacking adequate skill levels which could prove dangerous for all trail users. In addition this could lead to increased demand on emergency services as e-bikes become more popular on NFS trails.

Thanks for hearing me out and please let me know if you have any questions.

Jesse