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First name: Bill

Last name: S

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been an avid mountain biker and hiker for over 10 years, and enjoy our trails approximately 5 times per week. Experience shows that permitting motorized bikes (e-bikes) on multi-use trails is a mistake that leads to increased user conflict and confrontation. For public safety, E-bikes should not be permitted on Forest Service or other Public trails. Period. Full Stop.

While the bike manufacturing industry promotes e-bike access to increase their sales, they ignore the increased conflict created between bikers, hikers, and also equestrian users created when motorized transportation (e-bikes) is introduced. Quite simply, introducing these users who lack the basic physical and technical capability to safely ride a bike drives a further wedge between trail users.

Personal experience shows it's a huge myth that most ebike/motorized users are older and/or disabled riders merely seeking to maintain access to their sport. Basic observation and facts show the majority of e-bike users on trails are riders under 45 who are seeking a way to ride beyond their fitness and capabilities. I have experienced and witnessed many unsafe interactions as ebike users overtook hikers and bikers on narrow uphill and flat trails, traveling at speeds well-beyond their ability and safe control. While many of us work hard and fight to build fitness and control our weight, the typical trail ebike user is trying to buy their way around this effort at the expense of existing trail users.

Ebikes may have a valuable place in public transportation, and in tightly controlled areas such as paved park paths where users with true physical limitations can enjoy safe access to the great outdoors. However, ebikes should NOT be allowed in any class or configuration on Forest Service and/or public trails.

The fact is some activities require a basic level of physical fitness and capability to safely participate around others. Mountain biking is clearly one of these. If users lack the basic fitness to climb the hills they want to descend or ride at safe speeds among others, their lack of physical capacity poses a hazard to others. Just because I'd like to dunk a basketball, the rim isn't lowered or a step stool introduced to offset my lack of fitness, jumping ability and height. A lack of the most basic fitness (literally, pedaling a bike) is a clear indicator a trail cyclist lacks the ability to safely steer, descend, brake, and overtake around others.

Work elsewhere like the rest of us to improve your capability and fitness; if you're unwilling to do this then find another pastime because you're clearly not looking for a physical activity. Don't try to just 'lower the rim' and selfishly make the rest of us less safe and jeopardize our trail access.

In the long-run, the health of outdoor sport and safe shared-use trail access is best served by prohibiting ebike use.