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Comments: I am opposed to e-bikes ANYWHERE, especially on hiking trails. This summer saw a surprising increase in people using the backcountry, possibly do to Covid-19 issues. Most of that use is camping in out-of-the-way places, and usually with large travel trailers. They do seem to walk near their camping sites, though, which means they are getting something of an outdoor experience (which camping in a large trailer does not give them). They would probably prefer to ride motorized vehicles rather than walk, since they can go farther and work less hard. But the point of being outdoor is not to go farther for less effort. I believe that walking is an important part of everyday life that many people are not experiencing, even in the National Forests and Parks.

Walkers do not seem to negatively impact motorized users, but the more motorized users there are in an area or on a trail, the less walkers there will be. It's not fun walking on trails with machines. If we allow more motorized use, we will have fewer walkers, and probably more human impact.

I don't know much about e-bikes except to know that they are motorized and not human powered. I suspect that regular bicycles do as much damage to the trails as e-bikes, but at least the person riding the bicycle is getting some exercise. I can't see the difference between an e-bike and a motorcycle, and ultimately, the trails open to e-bikes will be open to all motorized travel. . . . and walkers will have to find more challenging or less interesting places to walk in order to avoid the motorized users.

I understand that motorized use does seem to open an area to MORE users, since there are fewer people who choose to walk, but it also encourages less walking, and each person who visits has a larger impact. It is a vicious cycle that might be stopped by NOT allowing motorized use in the first place. Let People Walk! Please!