

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2020 8:39:35 PM

First name: Susan

Last name: Bolton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I live in a area where there are already many unpleasant encounters between regular bicycles and hikers. Despite the yield rules that bicycles are to yield to hikers and horses, I have seldom seen any such yielding occur. Even without electric motors, many riders careen at speed down trails with no regard to hikers coming up. Many trails originally constructed for hikers and designed for foot traffic are now being used by bicycles for which the trails were not designed. The bikes are known to be much more disruptive of wildlife than hikers, perhaps because their speed makes them look like predators. The higher pressure under their tires and their speed in turns widens trails increasing erosion and leading to damage to the trails. There are already 60,000 miles of trails on USFS land open to e-bikes not to mention the millions of miles of forest roads and other motorized trails. Please do not open all trails to ebikes. The damage to the environment, wildlife, hikers and trails is not warranted. Who will pay to repair that damage? Please do NOT expand their access. It will only lead to more damage and more fraught interactions between bicyclists and hikers and more pressure on already diminished wildlife in many areas.