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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a trail rider who spends a lot of time in Nature to enjoy the beauty, peace and quiet. When you're on horseback, your human scent is diluted by the smell of your horse. It's allowed me to see wildlife that I wouldn't have if I was hiking. I've had so many special moments.

Sharing trails with hikers is fine most of the time. They enjoy seeing and interacting with our horses and we enjoy talking to other people who love Nature as much as we do. Meeting children on the trail is the best. Sometimes it's their opportunity to be up close to a horse. I have a bell that is attached to my tack which lets people know something is coming. This is really important on windy, narrow trails.

I've also ridden in areas where ATVs are allowed. Many of the ATV operators are very considerate when they can see us coming. They will pull off to the side and even turn off their machines until we pass. We're always sure to thank them. There are times, however, when the trails are narrow and windy it can lead to a dangerous situation.

We can hear them coming. They can't hear us. They usually go pretty fast and they come whipping around a corner on a narrow trail and there's nowhere to go. We will try to move off the trail until they can see us, but there are times when it's really scary and dangerous.

An ATV is noisy so we at least have time to try to be safe. I'm not sure it would be the same encountering an electric vehicle. I would worry about one coming around a bend with neither us prepared for it. An accident would be much more likely to happen. I've encountered mountain bikers in some pretty surprising places and there have been a couple of times where the horses were spooked by the bike as much as the guy riding it!

I hope you consider this as you contemplate the decision about allowing electric bikes on trails that are also used by hikers and equestrians.