

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/22/2020 10:18:16 PM

First name: Randy

Last name: Rusnak

Organization:

Title:

Comments: 25 years ago, I started working to try to gain access to "trails" for Mt. Biking in the area I live. It was not easy, and I spent literally hundreds of hours traveling and speaking in front of large groups of people (most of who didn't want to hear what I had to say). I fought tooth and nail with the hikers and equestrians at that time. Not to mention land managers that really had no idea what bikes would do to trails and were Leary to allow access to bikers for fear of the "destruction" they would bring. We were told that we would run over small children, destroy trails, disturb wildlife, etc... In fact, they sound just like a lot of the comments on here being left by Mt. Bikers. I find it ironic, that now I find myself once more fighting to gain access to trails, but this time, the biggest obstacle are OTHER BIKERS. I'm sure most of those complaining have probably never spent a day doing trail work. They have never worked with land managers to lay out new trails and then to build them. If they did, they would know that ebikes are not going to do anymore damage than they do when they ride. It is sad that those opposing Ebikes access are now no different than the hikers and horse back riders many years ago, that swore we would destroy the trails if opened to bikes.

I would like to thank the Park Service for having an open mind, and allowing this access to happen. Hopefully, some of those ebikers will show up on trail work day.