

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2020 11:24:26 PM

First name: Carly

Last name: Monnin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As I have witnessed extensively as a backpacker on many, many trails, the increased accessibility of electronic equipment often empowers people who may otherwise choose not to recreate outdoors to, indeed, do so. This can, of course, serve as a boon to the cause of preserving natural areas, as it exposes people with a greater diversity of interests to the value of public spaces. However, as was the case during the surge of popularity of Pokemon Go, electronic usage in these spaces tends to be attractive to people who have little to no prior knowledge of basic trail and outdoor etiquette, many of which not only do not seek but also ignore appropriate information regarding recreating safely and respectfully for the sake of other people and wildlife. Fortunately, the impact of digital creature-hunting poses little risk to people's safety and ecological health, but the stakes are much higher in the presence of motorized bicycles that are less likely to be equipped with practiced and attentive users than non-motorized mountain bikes. Electronic enhancements tend to attract people who intend to use said enhancements to make shortcuts in the learning and training process that is necessary to recreating in the outdoors without endangering the health and safety of other users and wild residents. Taking shortcuts is not an acceptable practice in the outdoors, and equipment that empowers people to take more should not be permitted to do so.