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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings, my name is John Vail and I have been an avid mountain bike rider since 1988. I am writing in opposition to the use of ebikes on trails that are designated for human powered bikes, hikers and horses. Allowing ebikes onto these trails would effectively eliminate the hard work that has been done over the past decade or so to develop trails for outdoor recreational activities that do not involve motorized vehicles.

I don't have anything against motorized vehicles. I rode dirt bikes as a kid and still enjoy ATV'ing in properly designated locations. However, I do not believe they should be allowed on the same trails as hikers, horses and regular bikes for obvious safety reasons. Further, the level of damage that can occur, particularly in our sandy soils and heavy rainfall, could be very costly in terms of environmental damage, not to mention the additional maintenance costs. Finally, allowing ebikes onto these trails lessens the experience of those that enjoy the outdoors and appreciate the physical effort required to ride these trails. Getting to the top of a long challenging climb (particularly at my age) is an accomplishment that I savor greatly because it is a test of my physical strength and stamina as human being in nature. Simply put, ebikes are destructive to this ethos.

I applaud the Forest Service and other local agencies in their efforts to open our public lands to as many people and as many uses as possible. We are blessed to have such an abundance of lands to explore. I encourage you to continue managing these lands in a manner that allows those that wish to experience nature without encountering motorized vehicles to be separated from those that do. Thank you for your time and consideration.

John Vail