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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service Leadership,

We are writing to comment on FSM #7700 and FSM #7710.

e-Bikes are becoming increasingly popular and we understand the appeal particularly for elderly people or people with disabilities that may not have the strength to ride bicycles long distances. However, our experience is that the common e-bike rider is younger with adequate strength but lacking in bicycling skills.

However, we've experienced an increase in e-bike users on our local trails that are on state and private lands. Despite signs that clearly indicate that e-bikes are NOT allowed on these trails, e-bike riders defy the rules and continue to ride.

e-Bikes are heavier and do more damage to trails. Because they can ride faster up hill, there is a higher probability of running into other bikers, hikers or horseback riders because they are so quiet. Currently e-bikes are allowed on the road in Glacier National Park. We're amazed that there hasn't been a significant accident as a result.

Most e-bike riders lack experience with trail conditions, sharing the road with cars, or trail etiquette when passing other riders, hikers or horseback riders. They are giving responsible bicyclists a bad name and may limit existing trail access for non-motorized bicycles.

We encourage you to only permit e-bikes for use on dirt roads that adequate site lines and can be ridden safely by novice riders. E-bikes should not be permitted on dirt trails or even paved trails where there is significant hiker or non-motorized bicycle traffic.