

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/24/2020 9:28:41 PM

First name: Liz

Last name: Fallin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to urge the US Forest Service to ban e-bikes from non-motorized trails. Our family owns an e-bike, and I understand how fast they're able to move, and how silent they are.

As a long distance hiker, I have encountered both non-motorized and motorized vehicles on trail. Trails that are not designed for wheels are easily destroyed by wheels, especially when the bike/off-road motorized bike makes a turn. The force of the wheel during that turn will dig ruts into the trail, causing rapid erosion and destruction of the trail bed.

In terms of noise, both regular and e-bikes are silent. When a bike approaches a hiker, especially when going around a bend in the trail, the hiker can't hear the bike until it's too late to move out of the way. And with the speed the bike is moving, the rider also doesn't have time to avoid collisions. Because e-bikes move even faster than regular bikes, this minimal time is even less. And with the weight of e-bikes, collisions with hikers can have even more dangerous consequences. I'm over 50, and if I were to be hit by a bike (much less an e-bike), it would most likely end my hiking days.

I urge you, for the protection of the land, and for the safety of hikers and other trail users, to keep e-bikes off of non-motorized trails.