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Comments: As a citizen and healthcare provider, I am opposed to any changes allowing e-bikes to have access to the National Forest, Bureau of land management or National Parks. Originally I thought it was a great idea as it gave people access to areas that could not otherwise have seen those areas due to health or age. However, that has not been the case in Montana from what I have experienced as an outdoorsman, medical professional and bike enthusiast.

People who would normally ride dirt bikes are now using e-bikes as a means to access areas they couldn't reach prior, legally and illegally. E-bikes have a huge impact on the health and safety of wildlife as e-bikes travel much faster and farther throughout the woods than a cyclist would, as well as a financial impact on trail maintenance and infrastructure.

Living near Glacier National Park, some bike companies would argue that e-bikes are good for business as rentals. However, they have had a negative impact on the local community at large. E-bike rentals are allowing speed enthusiasts to access the park, and I have cared for multiple individuals at the hospital who ran into another person due to loss of control of an e-bike. We also don't have the parking infrastructure to support the extreme increase in e-bike users right now. As my Glacier National Park Ranger friend told me, 'it is only time before an e-bike accidentally goes off the cliff and then the park will ban all bike access after that.'

E-bikes are great in some regards, and should be meant for paved bike paths, an alternative to cars to get to work or school, or to help individuals who can't see the outdoors. But instead they are being used in lieu of dirt bikes in Montana for many people. I think you are opening up Pandora's box by supporting any changes on a National level and impacting the safety of others in the outdoors while harming the last remaining wilderness areas we have.