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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am an avid trail user, logging about 2000 miles per year mountain biking and hiking. I mostly use trails in the Methow Valley and some in the Seattle area. Many of the trails I use are on Land managed by the forest service. I also help seek approval for and maintain trails with Evergreen and Methow Trails and the Trails Collaborative in the Methow.

I use trails to get away from cities, cars and noise and to immerse myself in forests and other natural ecosystems. Over my last 25 years of heavy trail use, I have seen use grow tremendously. This is a good thing in my view for us all to enjoy our public lands. But with it the growth has come misuse. I've seen lots of abuse and disrespect. Garbage, cutting corners, bikes on hiking only trails, camping in protected areas and playing loud music while hiking or biking. I'm an advocate for trail use, but increased use has meant increased abuse too. This must be carefully managed.

I am very much opposed to ebike use of trails. While I like that it allows deeper access to less fit users, it increases traffic in the most pristine areas. This is happening already and I'm seeing riders moving much faster, less aware of their surroundings, making trails less peaceful and sometimes less safe. I see this as a slippery slope. Equipment and users will push right up against the rules, making and using faster, heavier and more destructive equipment and I see the character of our trails changing very much for the worse.

Ebike users already have vast networks of paved and gravel roads. Leave the trails to no-motorized users.