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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a hiker, bicycle rider, and equestrian. The choices of places where people like me can go to get away from motorized traffic are getting smaller and smaller. Especially for horseback riding.

I compete in the sport of Equestrian Endurance on a Thoroughbred Stallion, Nano Tech. Nano is extremely well behaved, but bikes can be scary. The only time he has ever "spooked" on a trail was when several people on mountain bikes were going fast down a hill, on a trail clearly marked "horses only. No bikes." Being on a horse is risky. Riding a horse on a trail with bicycles is dangerous. If the bikes are silent and powered by an electric motor, the risk of serious injury to me, and the risk of losing my horse in the wilderness, goes way, way up.

Two years ago, in Yellowstone National Park, riding with the Wranglers out of Canyon Village, we lost a horse. The horse spooked and disappeared into the wilderness, wearing a saddle and bridle, and carrying lunch for 17 wranglers. This was on a Monday, Labor Day. We mounted a search for the horse, and found him four days later, on Thursday, luckily thirsty and hungry, but alive. E-bikes are going to make incidents where riders are thrown, and horses are lost, more common, and for what? So that people can go places meant as wilderness, meant as no-motors?

I hope that the idea of allowing e-bikes on motionless trails just stops. If people want to ride e-bikes, they can do it on trails designated for motors. Look at the trails designated for ATVs. At first it seemed like an easy way to let more people get into the wilderness. Now it's a big drunken speed-fest with people driving huge, heavy powerful ATVs and UTVs. No mufflers. Huge tires. No care for the trail if it's wet or muddy.

thanks

Max Harn

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