

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2020 12:24:21 PM

First name: Kathy

Last name: Hardin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been riding horses on trails throughout the Southeast for nearly 30 years and unfortunately we have lost access to many of them due to growth in the communities and overuse on many. An example is Jake and Bull Mountain in North Georgia. When I first started riding there, the trails were not maintained and there was little signage. When the Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association (CTHA) took over maintenance of the trails, it was a much more desirable place to ride but then the bikers realized it and have all but taken over the trails. Even though most of them are very courteous and will stop to let horses pass, horses and bikes don't go together well. Bike riders generally ride with their heads down watching the ground and come up quickly on horses which spook and can cause major catastrophes. They simply are not a good combination! As a result, horseback riders do not frequently ride these trails anymore, even though we were the ones instrumental in establishing them. There are plenty more bike trails than there are horse trails so why can't the e-bikes be restricted to those trails designated strictly for bikes? The added speed of the e-bikes on rough terrain would be hazardous for humans or horses. Please keep motorized vehicles where they belong--on roads and paved trails. Let's keep nature natural--PLEASE!!!