

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2020 1:44:26 PM

First name: M

Last name: Wardle

Organization:

Title:

Comments: USDA Forest Service

Please do not allow ebikes on nonmotorized trails. Allowing these vehicles would ruin the backcountry experience for other trail users, further increase the safety hazards to other trail users and increase the detrimental environmental impacts to the areas where allowed.

The increased range and speed provided even by a class one ebike will negatively affect other users seeking remoteness and solitude away from motorized contraptions. There are plenty of trails and routes that allow motorized use and there is not reason an exemption be made for ebikes on nonmotorized trails.

These vehicles are a safety hazard as other trail users cannot hear the approach of the ebike, there are also increased the chances of serious injury from collision from the increase of overall speed allowed by use of the pedal assist. The safety of the user themselves is brought into question as the ebike user will be able to access areas and situations that the rider may not be physically ready for should the ebike fail and any issues would further tax local emergency services.

Environmentally the effects of ebikes are not understood enough to make a reasonable determination of impact. The increased range of these bikes will allow more access into pristine remote areas, increase disturbance to both plants and wildlife, and further degrade soils.