

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2020 5:06:02 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Sir or Madam: As an avid hiker and backpacker and general user of our public lands, I must disagree with the proposal to allow electric bicycles on non-motorized trails. It is fantastic that these new tools could potentially allow more public use of our public lands and I encourage the use of them. However, there is currently a separation between both what is allowed to be accessed with human-powered non-motorized conveyances and what can be used. There are vast quantities of trail and fire roads available for the use of motorcycles and now, electric bicycles. Opening up what has been heretofore accessible only to non-motorized vehicles will cause damage to those resources, hurt the wild-land experience for those of us who use our own power to seek this solitude, and create safety hazards for those users and the emergency personnel who will be required to serve them.

Regarding the safety hazards, most, if not all of the trails that would be opened under this rule are technical locations where allowing access to electric bikes would provide an attractive nuisance to those who do not have the experience or physical capacity to safely enjoy these locations, and in the event of a mishap, self-extract. As we've seen with the increasing popularity of hiking and backpacking, increasing populations inevitably result in increasing injuries and need for emergency support.

By adding yet another classification of user, the rule would also further exacerbate the confusion surrounding access to public lands. As is so often the case, the confusion about allowable access always results in use of trails by those either confused by the access rules or those who simply do not care to abide by the rules.

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