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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for this opportunity to comment on proposed trail use changes regarding e-bikes. I am opposed to allowing e-bikes on any and all trails that are currently closed to any motorized vehicles. As a hiker I have learned to avoid trails which allow mountain bikes as I have had bad experiences with being nearly run into by them. Bikes already cause severe down cutting of trails and erosion, as well as a tendency to widen trails on curves by banking the curve; these negative effects of bikes would be exacerbated by e-bikes going at faster speeds. This year we have seen e-bikes on trails that are designated non-motorized. Stepping off trail to allow bikes to go by is already far more disruptive to a pleasant hike than encountering fellow hikers, the surprise of encountering even faster bikes has the potential for more dangerous outcomes, this is a serious safety issue. This year also offered an opportunity to observe how wildlife is affected by human presence: with the closure of public lands this spring wildlife repopulated areas that are generally disturbed by people. Maintaining more minimal disturbances is beneficial to the well being of many species. While I recognize that mtn bikes are capable of going long distances an e-bike extends that range and could result in disturbances of areas that are currently minimally disrupted. Motorized vehicles already have access to innumerable miles of roads and trails. Please continue to provide trails that disallow motorized use. Do NOT equate an e-bike with a bicycle.

Sincerely, Carolyn Wright