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Organization:

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Comments:

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E-bikes are motorized and should NOT be on non-motorized trails. Although the intent is to allow more trail access to those with mobility limitations, e-bikes are not the answer.

According to a 2019 study by the Portland State University Transportation Research and Education Center, the typical e-bike owner is in 'very good or excellent health,' (53.1%), and only '28.7% reported having a physical limitation that makes riding a standard bicycle difficult.'

77.2% of respondents agreed that 'an e-bike's speed and acceleration are exciting.'

68.5% agreed that 'on my e-bike, I feel like I go faster than other cyclists.'

81.6% agreed that 'on average, I ride faster than I would on a standard bicycle.'

Because e-bikes are surprisingly quiet, this combination of speed (Class III e-bikes can accelerate up to almost 30 mph unassisted) and silence endanger traditional non-motorized trail users, especially hikers, who typically average 2-3 mph, and equestrians, because horses tend to spook extremely easily. Many non-motorized trails are more remote and inaccessible than motorized trails and roads. If non-motorized trails are re-classified as e-bike trails, it is likely that Search & Rescue (SAR) calls will increase, and that more trail users will be injured more severely and more frequently.

PLEASE, do NOT allow e-bikes on non-motorized trails!

Signed,

A very concerned equestrian and mom of young equestrian