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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Approximately 60,000 miles of US Forest Service trails are presently open to e-bike use. If all public lands are included, e-bikers have access to MILLIONS of roads and motorized trails. Please do not change any of the directives. E-bikes have plenty of turf.

E-bikes are not compatible with other forms of trail travel. E-bikes travel at far greater speeds than other trail users. They will disrupt wildlife and horse traffic. They will cause accidents and damage to trails. Their weight alone makes them unsuitable to backcountry use. They make mountain bikes seem SAFE and we all know how busy the hospitals are kept just with the addition of mountain biking as a popular sport.

I was recently hiking with a friend in the Tetons. All was well until we reached a junction, when 2 e-bikers entered the trail going downhill. We did not hear them or know they were there until the woman in front passed without any warning so close to my friend that she jumped off the trail and let out a scream. The second e-biker, realizing how alarmed we were, gave warning when he passed but it was steep enough that I was not sure they could have stopped quickly without laying down their bikes in front of us.

E-bikes do not belong on National Forest System (NFS) non-motorized trails. They are dangerous to all non-motorized trail users. They are more like motorcycles than bicycles. I cannot imagine why you would consider expanding their access to public land.

Thank you for this consideration.