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Comments: I am not in favor of increasing motorized use on non-motorized trails, regardless of the type of motor. I live in Moab, Utah, where motorized noise impacts have created a quality-of-life crisis currently coming to a head. Our noise is primarily from off-road vehicles, as well as paragliders and general rapidly increasing tourism. Prior to a recent city-county meeting called to address the noise subject, a citizen-led petition calling for actions to reduce noise gathered almost 2000 signatures in two days - in a town of 9500 people, children included! Excuse me if I missed it, but I did not see any mention of noise impacts in the current National Forest proposal. Of course, e-bikes aren't nearly as loud as off-highway vehicles, but they still create motorized noise. Motorized noise impacts human users to the national forests. It also impacts birds and other wildlife near the trails, and in some forest areas, there are enough trails that the implications are severe. If the e-bike user numbers accelerate as tourism has in Moab, whether in a year or five decades, it will be too late to exclude e-bikes then. These decisions must be considered very carefully and fully, as once e-bikes are allowed, it will be almost impossible to revoke that privilege.

Additionally, the proposal does not address the differences in users of e-bikes and users of mountain bikes, and how that might impact trails and areas surrounding trails currently used by mountain bikers. Of course, some of the people will be the same, perhaps slightly older former mountain bikers and experienced outdoor people. But there may be additional users with a different history. In Moab, before the current craze of side-by-sides, razors, and UTVs, there were a smaller numbers of ATV users on the jeep roads, especially on BLM lands, but also on forest roads. Most commonly they brought their own vehicles and were experienced in operating them. The newer side-by-sides etc., are easier to operate and are now abundantly rented out to anyone who wants to pay. Inexperienced visitors cause more destruction of natural resources while out, and they get themselves in trouble more (requiring more search and rescue resources, as well as associated land impacts).

Finally, please leave these decisions to local or regional authorities. Every situation is so different, and they more commonly have an understanding of their situation. Management of the overcrowded areas surrounding Moab require such a different thought process than that for a low-population rural area with few visitors. And the trails and land they are on are infinitely variable. Some trails are just not appropriate for the use of e-bikes.

Thank you for considering these opinions.