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Organization:

Title:

Comments: 1) E-bikes are a form of motorized travel and have no place on a non-motorized trail. The only difference between a dirt bike and an e-bike is the type of motor used to propel it. Allowing e-bikes is a slippery slope to allowing dirt bikes on trails. It's bad enough that some of the mountain bikes are essentially dirt bikes without a motor.

2) Allowing e-bikes would not only cause more erosion leading to greater environmental damage but create hazardous conditions on the trail for all users.

3) Trails are already getting pulverized by bicycles and, with extremely dry summers like we've been seeing (and will continue to see with climate change), the dust on the trail is often several inches thick. Hiking in late summer and the fall sometimes requires a mask, not just for the fires, but from the pulverized trails due to the number of mountain bikes. This dust is oftentimes mostly DG (decomposed granite) containing high amounts of silicon, which can cause silicosis if breathed for very long. Hikers are either forced to breathe this dust or wear a mask. Allowing e-bikes will only pulverize the trails that much more and cause health risks to hikers.

4) Bicyclists are already taking over many of trails, making it difficult and even dangerous for hikers to use them. Therefore, hikers are forced to go elsewhere even though that may be the closest trail to where they live, creating longer commute times to trails and therefore increased climate change impacts. This situation will only worsen if e-bikes are allowed.

5) When hikers venture out on a heavily used mountain-biker trail, they are forced to jump off the trail when adrenalin-seeking mountain bikers speed down the trail. Because e-bikes can go faster and further distances, this situation will only become worse if e-bikes are allowed on the trail.

6) There is no monitoring of trail use and the environmental damage from bicycles now. Allowing motorized bicycles into the mix, especially with different types of e-bikes being allowed, will only lead to increased, unmonitored environmental damages and a chaotic and unenforceable situation.

7) Allowing motorized e-bikes on the trail will increase hiker/biker conflicts. This is already a problem because bicycle riders either don't acknowledge that the hiker has the right-of-way or they are ignorant of the right-of-way rules of the trail. This is exacerbated by hikers generally moving over for the bicyclist because they don't want to be run over. Very few hikers stand their ground and demand the right-of-way so it generally reinforces the view that bicycles have the right-of-way instead of hikers. These conflicts and potential accidents and altercations will only increase if motorized e-bikes are allowed.

8) There are plenty of motorized trails and dirt roads for e-bikes to travel. Allowing e-bikes will only force a diminution of places for hikers to safely hike without feeling they are going to be run over around the next corner.