

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/27/2020 2:19:52 AM

First name: Carmalee

Last name: Scarpitti

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am opposed to allowing e-bikes to access non-motorized trails. I am an equestrian, hiker who has a mobility impairment and needs crutches to walk any distance. In addition, I was a mountain biker before I became disabled. I have ridden an e-bike and know they are fast, have great acceleration, and are fun to ride. I have driven a Nissan Leaf plug-in electric vehicle since late 2011 and am aware of the benefits and differences between an electric vehicle and other motorized vehicles. While the environmental benefits of an EV are myriad they are just plain fun to drive because they are so quick and have such great acceleration.

As an individual with a disability, I can appreciate that allowing motorized e-bike vehicles on non-motorized trails would open up areas to individuals who can not access them otherwise. However, as an outdoors enthusiast I do not believe that non-motorized trails are an appropriate environment for e-bikes. There are multiple problems with allowing motorized e-bikes on our trails. First, the rapid acceleration they are capable of will cause irreparable damage to our trails and potentially create dangerous footing for other users. Secondly, e-bikes are very fast and their speed makes them unsuitable for non-motorized trails. Thirdly, they are nearly silent and there is great danger of having them fly up upon non-motorized users and startle them. While this may only get the heart of a hiker or biker racing it could cause an equine to spook and injure their rider and/or the e-bike rider. There are many miles of trails open to motorized vehicles and that is where e-bikes belong.