

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/27/2020 2:14:56 AM

First name: William

Last name: Van Lente

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am totally apposed to allowing electric motorized bikes to use trails shared by backpackers on foot or people using stock. Allowing any motorized device compromises the special protected status of these natural resources as accessible to those willing to exert the effort to traverse them without any mechanical or motorized devices. There are numerous areas already available to users who prefer to rely upon mechanical, motorized devices for their travel.

Additionally, allowing electric bikes to share trails with stock is patently dangerous. These devices will come upon riders of stock rapidly and quietly, thus spooking many and endangering their riders, whether men, women or children. Without a doubt, should this be allowed and adopted as policy, there will be unnecessary injuries and in time death to stock users from this hazard.

Volunteers in backpacking and stock packing groups have served to maintain and improve trails, to make them eco friendly, safe for travel, and stable. Use of motorized bikes will work against that kind of volunteer initiative in partnership with the Forest Service. I sincerely doubt groups of users who prefer ease of access with a motorized bike will contribute sufficient to offset the damage they will do, if they are willing to help at all with trail maintenance and improvement.

In summary, allowing any motorized or similarly mechanized access is a slippery slope with huge risks and disadvantages and very little advantage except to people too lazy to hike or ride stock, and of course the electric bike industry, which I suspect is lobby for this change, contrary to the best protected use of these precious lands.