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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am an avid mountain biker and have been mountain biking since 1982. I believe e-bikes have a place on some trails, but not all trails.

My solution to allowing e-bikes on some trails is to assign a special e-bike allowance designation to those trails. Example, some trails today may allow for equestrians, hikers, and bikes by displaying an icon of a horse, a person, and a bicycle. Trails that allow e-bikes could have a lightning bolt inside the bike icon. If the icon is not present, then the default is that e-bikes are not allowed.

I believe the benefits of e-bikes would encourage more people to use our trail systems and enable people with physical disabilities to also enjoy mountain biking. I feel that people who fall into the ADA category could be allowed on all bike trails and those that do not fall into the ADA category would be restricted to approved e-bike trails.

Side Note: I believe e-bike users need to be licensed, as in a driver's license, and have an annual bicycle license, like motor vehicles to ensure e-bike users are educated on trail safety and proper trail etiquette. It is also a revenue stream for maintaining and building trails to meet the needs of e-bikes.

I recommend that they are not allowed on all presently approved mountain bike trails. Some trails are too fragile, have too much traffic, or the fire danger is too high.

Lastly, I would like to see fire extinguishers on all e-bikes. Can you image what could happen if an e-bike battery pack caught fire in the forest?

In 1982, when I first started mountain biking, I encountered high resistance and hotly angry people. By 1989 mountain bikes were a commodity and everyone was mountain biking. I believe e-Bikes are also here to stay and have the potential to become equally as popular. It is super important that we allow spaces for them but also remember that they are a motorized vehicle limited by battery capacity.

I am really concerned that allowing e-bikes on trails that allow shared use with hikers and equestrians would create a potentially terrible user experience for hikers and equestrians and thus backfire for manual mountain bikers resulting in us getting removed from trails.

I have an MBA and serve on a city policy planning commission. I would love to participate in studies and or discussions.

Thank you