

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/4/2023 1:49:10 PM

First name: Tim

Last name: Cully

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear District Ranger,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed designation of e-bikes on certain trails within the Jackson Ranger District, as announced by Bridger-Teton National Forest.

While I understand the desire to accommodate the changing landscape of outdoor recreation and provide access to a wider range of users, I firmly believe that allowing any e-bike use on these trails is not in the best interest of the environment, existing trail users safety, and the overall outdoor experience. My concerns are as follows:

1.Environmental Impact: Allowing e-bikes on these trails could potentially have negative impacts on the natural environment. The increased speed and accessibility provided by e-bikes may lead to greater soil erosion, disturbance to wildlife habitats, and overall environmental degradation. It is crucial to prioritize the preservation of these valuable natural resources.

2. Safety: The proposal mentions that e-bikes would only be permitted on Class 1 trails, which are defined as providing assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases assistance at 20 miles per hour. However, enforcing these regulations and ensuring the safety of all trail users could be challenging. It's important to consider the safety of hikers, pets, horse riders, and traditional mountain bikers alike.

3. Impact on Traditional Users: Opening these trails to e-bikes would greatly disrupt the experiences of hikers, traditional mountain bikers, and for folks on horseback who have been using these trails for years. The presence of e-bikes would negatively impact the character of these trails and lead to increased conflicts among different user groups.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully request that Bridger-Teton National Forest reconsider the proposal to allow e-bikes on these specific trails. I encourage the Forest Service to abandon plans to allow e-bikes of any sort on forest service trails. Simply put, e-bikes do not belong on forest service trails period.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I appreciate your dedication to maintaining the integrity of our public lands and providing positive safe outdoor experiences for all. I hope that my concerns, along with those of others who share my perspective, will be taken into serious consideration.

Sincerely,