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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear members of the Forest Service: I am 69 years old and I've been riding a mountain bike for over 35 years. I ride Teton Pass regularly and split my 3000 annual miles of riding between road, mountain and gravel riding in both the greater Jackson area, Los Angeles and Vermont. I think this is a bad idea for the following reasons:

1. It will be impossible to police Class 1 bikes vs Class 2 and 3 bikes. Class 3 bikes have the ability to go to 28 mph and are very powerful in Turbo mode. No one can tell the difference by looking at an e-bike if it is class 1, 2 or 3.
2. You will not be able to have bikes ascending and descending the same trail especially on single track as the speed will not be manageable. I have experienced this on some trails in LA because the e-bikes climb much faster than a normal bike so the speed differential is great enough to make it really dicey in terms of quick movements. Many of the trails were designed for hiking back in the day and this issue simply didn't exist.
3. E-bikes are not as maneuverable as regular bikes. I just spent two days in the Black Forest of Germany riding an e-bike and it was fine on wider dirt roads but it clearly is trickier on single track.
4. On OPR, you already have a problem that cyclists are descending very quickly (speeds can reach 40 mph) and you compound it with fast climbing bikes and I would suspect that accidents will occur.
5. I'm very worried about a serious or fatal accident occurring on the Pathways in town caused by inexperienced riders riding e-bikes at high speeds - especially young kids. Young kids are not going to climb OPR on their own power, but an e-bike will allow that to happen. An accident with a rapidly descending cyclist could be deadly.
6. It will materially increase the number of bikes on the trails which will require significant increase in upkeep and degrade the experience for hikers and even regular bikes moving slowly.

The Forest Service land should be for access under human power. What will an e-bike's performance be 5 years from now. Will they stop making Class 1 and add an even more powerful class 4? You will have opened Pandora's box and you won't be able to put the genie back in the bottle.