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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm a 51 year old living in Alta, WY. My wife and I bought Class-1 e-mountain bikes two years ago with the hopes of being able to bike farther on mountain trails. While we're in good physical condition, we're certainly not capable of biking 20+miles with >2,000 vertical without e-assist. We'd also hoped to use the e-bikes for bike-assisted backpacking trips (do the long approach on bike then hike the remainder).

We've been disappointed at the very limited number of accessible trails in Teton Valley and Jackson Hole. Most of the dirt-bike trails are unrideable as they're super steep and heavily rutted. With most of the single track and even paved roads (Old Pass Road), off limits, we find very few enjoyable opportunities to use our e-bikes.

The current regulations make little sense to us. How am I (150lbs on a 50lb e-bike) doing more trail damage than any 170lb+ biker on a 30lb non e-bike? Trail conditions/obstacles limit speeds I can ride to well under the speed most young mountain bikers achieve on non e-bikes. Frankly, if the goal is to minimize trail wear-and-tear, I'd suggest horses be banned from many trails as half-ton horses do much more trail damage than bikes. Allowing horses but not Class-1 e-mountain bikes is totally illogical.

We look forward to the USFS opening more terrain to e-bikes here in the Tetons as they have in other states. The current proposal seems like a good start and the proposed permitting system makes sense.