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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am opposed to E-Bikes on Teton Pass/Philips Ridge area.

E-bikes are motorized vehicles that cause severe bodily harm to those they crash into; they are heavier, bigger and faster than human powered bikes. They also cause more damage to trails than human powered bikes. Especially in wet conditions; Users are not deterred by mud because the motor can power through it.

Allowing E-bikes in this area will have an impact on wildlife as it will increase the number of users which is a known cause of stress and potential death for wildlife. The more people the more noise and disruption for wildlife.

The idea that the FS could restrict use to a certain "class" of e-bike is not realistic. There will never be enough enforcement. The FS is not capable of enforcing the rules of use for camping and or motorized vehicles (including e-bikes) as it is. And the illegal E-bikers that use the Pass and other restricted areas are FULLY aware of this and go where ever they wish without consequence.

Allowing E-bikes will put 1000s of inexperienced bikers in a technical and forested area, thus causing more problems. More than half of the people who rent bikes haven't been on one since they were 10 years old, but they're attracted to it because the motor makes them think it will be easy. Pressure to include E-bikes by retail and rental shops is for personal economic gain alone. Bike shops make more money because of E-bikes, as people are more likely to rent/buy/ride a bike these days solely because of the motor. Just because their numbers are growing, shouldn't justify their being able to terrorize the forest.

Lithium-Ion batteries are know to catch fire even when they are not overheated. Once the word is out, E-bikes will be in the campsites too. We'll have yet another fire issue in the forest that borders hundreds of homes with a prevailing wind headed straight toward them. Why create another hazard?

E-bikes have plenty of places to ride legally in Teton County. The Pass/Philips area is already busy. Please don't turn it into a place that everyone ends up hating because of too many and conflicting user groups.

Thank you.