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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to expand access for Class 1 Electric Mountain Bikes (EMTBs) on the Bridger Teton Forest trails, specifically in the Teton Pass area. As an advocate for sustainable outdoor recreation, I believe that this expansion is both timely and advantageous for several reasons:

Environmentally Friendly: Class 1 EMTBs are pedal-assist and do not emit harmful emissions. They're a clean way of enjoying our forest trails without contributing to pollution.

Trail Impact: Studies have shown that the physical impact of EMTBs on trails is comparable to traditional mountain bikes. They don't cause more wear and tear than non-motorized bikes, making them suitable for shared-use paths.

Accessibility and Inclusivity: EMTBs can be an essential tool for those who may have physical limitations but still want to enjoy mountain biking. By expanding the access dates and locations, you give more individuals the chance to experience the beauty and adventure of Bridger Teton Forest.

Economic Benefits: Increased EMTB access can lead to increased tourism. Visitors who come to ride bring business to local establishments, promoting economic growth in the surrounding communities.

Trail Etiquette: Most EMTB riders adhere to trail etiquette and respect the rights of other trail users. Through proper signage and education, any concerns about trail sharing can be addressed.

Expanded Recreation Opportunities: Bridger Teton Forest is vast, and by allowing more access for EMTBs, you're amplifying the recreation opportunities for everyone, ensuring a broader spectrum of the community can enjoy what the forest has to offer.

In consideration of the limited current access-particularly the restrictive dates on Munger Mountain and Horsetail trails-I strongly believe that lengthening these access dates will allow for a more extended enjoyment period without compromising the integrity of the trails.

The addition of 27.5 miles of existing trail in the Teton Pass area for EMTB use represents a significant and positive step toward inclusive, sustainable, and responsible recreation in Bridger Teton Forest.

I urge the Bridger Teton Forest Service to move forward with this proposal and continue its commitment to providing diverse recreational opportunities for all. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Scott Fitzgerald