Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/18/2023 1:28:20 PM

First name: Cathy Last name: Shill

Organization: The Hole Hiking Experience

Title: owner

Comments: I understand the need for access and multiple use on forest land. Being a permittee for over 30 years, I recall the argument for the need for ATV use to allow access to the land for all people. The change allowed those with limitations to also experience the trail and nature. I don't think electric bikes need to be added to trails to allow access since the ATV supposedly met that need. Since that time the number of motorized vehicles now called side by sides have negatively impacted our roadways due to the increase of use and bad practices. Most of these folks could walk but choose to use a motorized vehicle.

There is a local issue in Jackson that many use electric bikes on trails without approval. I am curious how the forest service will address this issue? Opening specific trails for motorized such as on Teton Pass or extending season on Munger does not stop the use of electric bikes in cache creek or game creek.

Being a hiker, I know that bikers rarely yield. Many bikers may be willing to yield on a trail but they go faster and can't hear other users, so we move off trail for safety. I don't see how this issue will lessen with faster, motorized bikes.

My main concern is safety with this proposal. How will the trails be managed and monitored? What happens when electric bikes can be rented and taken on trails and we have novices that now have a motor and speed? Maybe a required class before renting? As management changes and trail access is updated, it becomes hard to manage the increased use. Speed and novices are not a good mix in my book. How will the access be limited to just class 1 ebikes? I support a permit system to manage use and education. I don't think a sticker from a local bike shop and the opportunity to provide responsible ethics is enough. Again, I refer to the ATV/side by side issue we are currently experiencing on forest land.

If motorized use is increased on trails in the Jackson area, I support dispersed use as in the Phillips pass area where horse and hikers have access to non-motorized trails. We have specific trail systems in Jackson that are heavily travelled, I support hike/horse only trails especially in the Munger Mountain area.

I appreciate all the work done by our forest representatives and I wish for a balance in nature for all user and all that live here. As stated by the National Wildlife Federation, ebikes negatively impact wildlife and threatens habitat. I don't agree with increased access for motorized bikes and feel we have enough biking access and trails already and if some can no longer access the trails by pedaling there is always the ATV.