

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/18/2023 6:00:00 AM

First name: Ed

Last name: Lavino

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The proposal to allow eBikes on Teton Pass is a bad idea. It would create problems that would exponentially spin out of control.

Bridger-Teton National Forest officials have consistently said there is a parking problem on Teton Pass. Adding motorized eBikes to the equation would exacerbate the problem. Additionally, this new use would likely spur an industry of eBike rentals specifically for backcountry use. The people renting these bikes would, by and large, be inexperienced and unprepared for the rough terrain. As a hiker who wants to enjoy wilderness surroundings and wildlife, mountain bikes have already negatively affected my wilderness experience. Adding eBikes would compound a negative impact that already exists.

If the forest service opens designated areas of the wilderness to eBikes, it will be hard to police their expanded use into undesignated areas of the backcountry. The forest service's comment that motorized eBikes only go 20 miles an hour seems inaccurate. California has had to deal with eBikes capable of going 70 miles per hour.

I feel strongly that the use of eBikes in wilderness areas would cause a multitude of problems. Motorized eBikes should be restricted to designated routes for off road motorized vehicles.

Thanks for your consideration of my concerns.