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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please do not allow e-mountain bikes on our trails.

I live in Wilson, Wyoming. I frequently hike and bike on the trails around Teton Pass and Phillips Canyon.

These trails are currently well used. Allowing e-mountain bikes will benefit only a few users while imposing greater risks and inconvenience on most of us as well as on wildlife and the trails themselves.

Problems e-mountain bikes will cause:

- * Uphill e-bike travel will be much faster. We already have to pay attention to the uphill direction for oncoming riders; e-mountain bikes would make us watch our backs as well.
- * Trails like Phillips Canyon have many flat parts. Riders of e-mountain bikes can manage 20 mph in both directions. A relative speed of 40 mph is unsafe given vegetation limiting visibility.
- * And, by the way, it's easy to defeat the speed governors on e-bikes. Your 20 mph limit will not work.
- * E-mountain bikes are much heavier than regular mountain bikes. This will increase downhill speeds and momentum, decrease rider control, and lengthen stopping distances, leading to greater risk of collisions and injury with other users of the trails.
- * For the same reasons e-mountain bikes will put more stress on the trails.
- * E-bike batteries are a known fire risk. A fire in the mountains above Wilson could be devastating.
- * Conflicts with other users will increase. Do I have to let an e-mountain bike pass while I am hiking?
- * Allowing e-mountain bikes will break a long-standing prohibition of motorized vehicles on our trails. That inevitably will open the way for more mechanical ways to "improve access" and crowd out most of us who seek a natural experience.

Thank you,
Paul OBrien