Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2023 6:39:41 PM

First name: James Last name: Springer Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings, I am writing to express my concerns with the proposed e-bike rules changes in the Bridger-Teton National Forest. I am a heavy user of the Teton Pass corridor in Winter and Summer. E Bikes already violate the prohibitions against their use on the Old Pass road. I have seen several this past summer. Extending e-bike use opens the door to similar violations of rules particularly since there is currently NO enforcement capacity by the B-T Forest. No one could have imagined the amazing capacity of current e-bikes just a few years ago. Rapidly advancing technology seems limitless and agencies will be pressured by user groups, commercial groups and political representatives to allow whatever is next in the motorized recreational vehicle future. Teton Pass is a relatively small area. As snowmobile capability has increased backcountry skiers have ceded the areas north of the pass on the East side to exclusive snow machine use and violations of the Targhee Wilderness boundaries are frequent. Downhill mountain biking has made the Black Canyon trail effectively off-limits to hikers and the Lithium Trail, formerly a slightly used, unmaintained trail is also closed to hikers. I bike the Old Pass road frequently in Summer and it is crowded with families with small children and adding that to the Old Pass road mix is frightening.

Trailhead parking is frequently beyond capacity and adding another user group and whatever may come next shows little vision and highlights the Jackson Hole mentality that more is always better particularly if financial gain is possible. Please keep the electric motorcycles and other machine powered modes of recreation off the Old Pass road and other trails in the Old Pass road corridor.