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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to object to the proposal to allow e-bikes on many of the trails on Teton Pass and the Old Pass road. I hike as well as cycle on the Old Pass road frequently, and it is already fairly busy with non-motorized bikers and hikers sharing the road, respectfully with each other. It simply would not be safe to introduce a greater number of cyclists to the mix. In addition, these added e-bike cyclists would be moving at much faster speeds, particularly uphill. In addition to the safety issues associated with these unnatural speeds for non-motorized bikers, it would be difficult for hikers to deal with e-bikes moving at speed uphill and also now a greater number of bikers in total moving fast downhill.

The problems with e-bikers on mixed use and biking trails would be at least as problematic. There is only room for one bike on most of the trails, creating issues with the markedly different speeds at which e-bikers are able to ascend trails. I have a friend who was mountain biking up a trail at Teton Village and was knocked off of her bike by a passing e-biker as she ascended. She sustained a serious shoulder injury. The added speed uphill also would make for more conflict for hikers as there would be much less notice to safely get off the trail when e-bikers approach from below.

I also am troubled by the likely greater disturbance and stressing of wildlife by the increased numbers of humans on these trails and by the introduction of e-bikes moving at greater speeds. We need to be cognizant not to ask too much of wildlife as human traffic in the backcountry increases naturally, much less increases at a step function up with the introduction of e-bikes.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully ask that you do not allow e-bikes on Teton Pass.