

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/29/2023 3:12:31 AM

First name: Ted

Last name: Kerasote

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a frequent and longtime user of Teton Pass, where I've skied, mountain biked, and hiked, I think allowing e-bikes on any of the trails of Teton Pass as well as on the Old Pass Road is a poor idea. My primary concern is that the Forest Service doesn't have the personnel to enforce speed limits, and it is improbable that e-bikers will control their speed on their own. No matter where I've been, and where e-bikes are allowed, their riders use them at speeds far beyond the speed that other users are traveling, creating hazardous conditions for people on foot, on skis, and on human-powered bikes, not to mention wildlife.

At the present time, E-bikes are allowed on the town and county pathways in Jackson Hole; they're allowed on the bike path in GTNP; and they're allowed on the National Elk Refuge dirt road, as well as on all Forest Service and GTNP roads where cars are allowed.

Teton Pass and the Old Pass Road are semi-wild areas that deserved to be treated as such. Allowing e-bikes in these two areas will markedly degrade the experience of human-powered travelers, while not offering these individuals any experience that is remotely similar.

What is being asked by the e-bike community, is for thousands upon thousands of people to give up recreation that they've enjoyed for close to a century so that individuals on motor-powered vehicles can have one more place that they can enjoy. And please make no mistake--e-bike are motorized vehicles. They may be quiet, but they are running with an electric motor and should not be given the same access that recreationists using human power enjoy.

Consider this scenario: children, their parents, and their dogs strolling on the Old Pass road; currently they have to look out for mountain bikers and skiers coming down at high speeds; if e-bike are allowed, they will also have to look out for e-bikes coming up as well, and at speeds that can easily reach 25 miles per hour. It's a bad mix.

Sincerely,

Ted Kerasote

Kelly, Wyoming

tedkerasote@wyoming.com