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Comments: As a frequent (pedestrian) user of BTRF trails in both summer and winter I am commenting on the proposal to allow e-bikes on forest service trails in the Teton pass area. I do not believe that e-bikes have a place on these trails.

Just a note that on every Teton pass walk I have made over the past year, I have encountered wildlife. This is the treasure that should be our first priority to protect.

In my opinion e-bikes will add to increased numbers of negative interactions between e-bikes and other cyclists, e-bikes and hikers, and most importantly between e-bikes and wildlife. In part, this is due to the increased potential for higher speeds and the heavier weight of e-bikes. The bike rider must self regulate their speed, and courtesy toward all when on the trail. In my experience, there are still far too many who are willing to ride at high speeds, or assume that there is no one, or no wildlife around the next turn.

As there is already little to no enforcement of rules, it is not wise to add yet another user category to the mix.

There is also the potential for a drastic increase in the number of users, as folks who may not be willing to pedal these trails under their own power are more than happy to get out with the help of an artificial and generally fossil fuel assisted battery. Just increased numbers alone will lead to more potential issues.

The heavily treed nature of the Teton pass trails make them far less suitable for e-bike use compared to an open vista or lightly wooded trail, where both wildlife and other users (hikers) see bikes well in advance.