

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/30/2023 3:26:40 PM

First name: Chris

Last name: Brule

Organization: Mountain Bike the Tetons

Title: Executive Director

Comments: RE: E-Bike Use Designation on Select Jackson Area Trails #64890

As the Executive Director of Mountain Bike the Tetons, I am writing to express our support for the expansion of Class 1 eMTB access on the proposed Jackson trails. Mountain Bike the Tetons (MBT) is a 501c3 non profit with a focus in trail stewardship, advocacy, community education and engagement in the Teton Region. MBT advocates for sustainable, responsible recreation and we believe this is a timely opportunity to address eMTB access.

Inclusion. As we have seen, the use of eMTBs has increased. Considering the diverse consumers of ebikes, the current regional trail access is very limited. Allowing extended access dates in Munger and Horsetail areas and the addition of the Teton Pass trail network will create more inclusive recreation opportunities. Many e-MTB users rely on ebikes to access trails due to physical or mental limitations and will significantly benefit from this increased access.

Trail Impact. The impact on trail surfaces of a Class 1 eMTB is comparable to that of a traditional mountain bike. The bike's speeds are limited and do not travel fast enough uphill or downhill to impact trail erosion or overall sustainability more than a non-motorized bike would.

User Impact. Due to the directional nature of the Teton Pass trail network, the increased impact of users will be minimal. With access to the paved pathway, parking on the pass will be alleviated as users will access trails from the pathway. In many cases, eMTB riders are new to the sport and will be traveling on the 'easier' trails at slower speeds. It is suggested that signage is implemented to help all users understand trail code and etiquette.

Extended access dates for the Munger Mountain Area and Horsetail Area offers a great solution to increase accessibility to the BTNF landscape. Additionally, with the trail infrastructure of Teton Pass, hosting XC trails, directional downhill trails and jumps, the proposed expansion of eMTB use in Jackson will prove advantageous to the future management of trails and responsible recreation in the BTNF. Though, while in support, there are some safety management considerations the Forest Service will have to consider if approved.

Signage & Education. Appropriate signage will be needed to educate new and existing users about eMTB classification and the exceptions specific to each area. An eMTB guide would be a valuable resource for visitors planning to recreate in the region. If needed, Mountain Bike the Tetons could offer assistance in creating this resource.

Accountability. There will likely have to be enforcement during periods of high use to ensure riders are adhering to the appropriate approved eMTB classification.

Directional Riding. Due to the nature of these trails, speed of rider's descending and favored downhill direction, it is suggested that Black's Canyon and Phillip's Canyon trails exclude uphill access to eMTB.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer public comments on the proposal.