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First name: Richard

Last name: Hobbins

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The proposal to allow e-bikes on multi-purpose Forest Service trails in Jackson Hole, especially those trails in the Teton Pass area, for the purpose of extending the trails to more persons, especially those who are physically unable to use self-powered mountain bikes, may well have the unintended consequence of discouraging the use of those trails by hikers and horseback riders due to safety concerns.

While my wife Karen and I appreciate, and preferentially use, trails designated only for hiking and horseback riding (Karen), we also use multi-purpose trails, some of which (particularly the Phillips Canyon trail) are proposed to permit e-bikes. We find sharing trails with mountain bikes to present significant danger, especially when we are hiking downhill and are suddenly approached by mountain bikers coming from behind at high speed. Adding e-bikes, which are heavier, increases the possible consequences of a collision to hikers and horseback riders. In addition, the faster uphill speed of e-bikes reduces the time for hikers and horseback riders to take evasive action.

We also hike Munger Mountain trails and would not like to see, for the reasons expressed above, the season allowing e-bikes to extend beyond that already in place for motorcycles.

In sum, I expect the danger to hikers and horseback riders to be considerably greater from e-bikes compared with the danger from self-powered mountain bikes. We and other hikers and horseback riders may well decide the danger is too great to continue to use multi-purpose trails open to e-bikes. After 50+ years hiking and horseback riding trails in Jackson Hole and the Teton Pass area, this is a hard pill to swallow.