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First name: Mary

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the prospect of allowing e-bikes on the trails within the BTNF in the Teton Pass area.

I am an 80 year old woman and have lived in Jackson for over 50 years. I enjoy hiking, yes, even at my age. I regularly hike the Cache to Game Trail and also utilize many of the trails that will be detrimentally affected by e-bikes in the Old Pass Road - Teton Pass area.

While I know the charge of the Forest Service is multiple-use, the prospect of e-bikes on the trails in this area is terrifically concerning and I have several comments about this possibility:

1) Multiple-use in these areas is not necessary. Many of the trails included are already accessible by non-motorized bikes. The addition of e-bikes will not add older people riding these trails. There is an expansive pathways system in Teton County that allows the workout, relaxation and tranquility of a ride for older riders. Mountain biking/e-biking on mountain trails does not provide the experience that older riders seek.

2) Addition of e-bikes to these trails will seriously interrupt the relaxation and tranquility that I (as an older hiker) and others need and seek to our maintain mental equilibrium.

3) I understand that the proposal has been developed only with the input of the e-bike users. This is a seriously flawed way to develop a plan. I believe that as employees of the National Forest Service, and therefore employees of citizens of the United States, a plan such as this should be developed with input from interested parties of both sides of the issue.

4) If this is to be a trial situation, I would hope that there would be a plan in place to eliminate it if the results are unsatisfactory.

5) The addition of e-bikes to these trails will undoubtedly add many, many users to the system; potentially over burdening the trails as has become the case in GTNP and Delta Lake. Is there a plan to patrol and monitor the use?

6) The addition of e-bikes will cause serious deterioration of the actual trails. If comments to the contrary exist, those comments are coming from people who have never hiked a 'multi-use' trail. Bikes, either pedal or e-variety, cause serious 'Vee-ing' or rutting of the trail. Hiking on those 'Vee-ed trails is very difficult and a possible cause for falling and injury.

7) In multiple surveys the residents of Teton County have indicated that Wildlife is the priority for our area. The addition of e-bikes will interrupt the viability and movement, the very existence, of the wildlife that live in the areas impacted by the e-bikes; fragmenting the environment with additional disruption, more invasion.

Thank you for considering my comments when making your decision.

Do not ask what Nature can do for you; ask what you can do for Nature.