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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear District Ranger Todd Stiles and the others working on this proposal,

Thank you for your effort to develop a management plan for e-bikes on the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Jackson District. I agree with the assessment that it is necessary to have a management plan in place for e-bikes. The use is certainly occurring and growing fast. Although I wish a framework had been set at a national level to create a uniform management plan across our federal public lands, here we are. I understand that when managing a growing use, evidence shows that it does not work to simply say "no". It is most effective when the "no" is paired with appropriate places where the use can occur and I do believe there are appropriate places for e-bikes. With that said, opening new trails to e-bikes, as you are proposing, is only one tool for management, and this single strategy should not be leading the discussion. Instead I feel a more comprehensive plan should be assessed, one that focuses equally on additional management tools. Your current scoping letter reads to me as simply an e-bike trail proposal. An intentional shift that focuses on and highlights additional ideas could instead turn this process into a comprehensive e-bike management proposal, which is what I feel the forest really needs at this time. Some ideas for additional management tools as a rough brainstorm:

- Trail ambassador program to promote permit compliance and education (use Teton Backcountry Alliance Pass Ambassadors as model)
- Data collection and analyzation plan to assess effectiveness and impact of additional trail miles
- Adding these trails within a one or two year trial period with a plan to assess compliance and effect of additional trails in reducing illegal use elsewhere.
 - It will be important to have clear predetermined metrics to assess success during this trial period. Engage the e-bike community in developing these so they cannot push back if the outcomes contradict these agreed upon parameters.
 - Developing code of ethics for shared trail use
- Is it possible to have a written memorandum of understanding with collaborating partner Teton E- Mountain Bike (EMBT) Coalition for their participation and involvement in ensuring compliance of e-bike users?
 - Education materials to accompany a possible permit
 - Volunteer trail ambassadors
 - Lead organizer of outreach and communication to encourage compliance with new trails
- Permits (free or a small fee) that ensure e-bikes on the Teton Pass and Munger Trails are class-1 and that riders have engaged in education materials on a code of ethics etc.

E-bike technologies evolved faster than our immediate ability to manage them, and the agency was left playing catch up. We now have an opportunity to get creative and put management in place that addresses the demands of today, while also standing to positively influence how this motorized use evolves into the future. To do this we need to get creative and I look forward to the next stage of this process where a larger conversation than just "yes" or "no" to e-bikes on additional trail miles can occur. I will continue brainstorming!

Thank you again for your work on this issue,

Peggie dePasquale