

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/28/2025 9:06:34 PM

First name: Brian

Last name: Remlinger

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please do not build new trails to accommodate e-bikes.

There are plenty of motorized use trails and roads where e-bikes can be used. I have witnessed e-bikes illegally using backcountry trails and closed logging roads on both BTNF and Shoshone NF. It ruins the experience for those of us using non-motorized forms of recreation such as hiking and traditional mountain biking. This will only become a broader issue once we open the e-bike "can of worms" on the BTNF.

The BTNF's own study shows increases in recreation use and group sizes create a negative impact on wildlife use of an area. Again, no new trails please.

<https://research.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/news/releases/new-study-outdoor-recreation-noise-affects-wildlife-behavior-and-habitat-use>

E-bikes will also create an unethical sportsman community to emerge as is the case in Utah and in parts of Shoshone NF where e-bikes are illegally used to access remote hunting and fishing areas. Even if a trail is legally e-bike only, hunting fair chase principles will be undermined by the use of e-bikes and animals will ultimately avoid those areas. I suggest closing e-bike trails during the hunting season (even on Teton Pass), however I doubt there will be any enforcement as I've seen on the Shoshone NF near Dubois.

E-bikes are well suited for the 60+ miles of paved pathways and many miles of motorized routes on the BTNF, not forest trails.

Please, no new trails on Munger or Shadow Mountains or anywhere else on the BTNF for e-bikes. Please keep our forest from becoming a circus!