

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2025 3:45:11 PM

First name: Malachi

Last name: Artice

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi,

I'm an avid trail user on the Jackson area network. I've had two e bikes now, both pedal assist, both with thousands of miles on them. I also have had multiple dirt bikes, with internal combustion engines. Here are my take aways for the current situation.

In September 2024 I received my first citation for riding my e bike past the road closed sign in Mosquito creek. The citation was for riding a "motorized vehicle off trail" even though I was on a road, that had truck tire tracks in the mud. The officer and I went back and forth for days, explaining the situation, the details on my bike and other issues with the area. In the end he still gave me a ticket for riding off trail.

During my discussion with the officer Mike norton and Tim farris of BTNF trails, my biggest take aways were that the forest service doesn't actually prioritize the protection of trails or sharing the uses fairly between user groups.

The easiest example of abuse that is permitted by Forrest Service is trails used by horses. An outfitter or Equestrian has no limit on how many horses are brought onto trails. This was brought to my attention by Officer Norton, giving me the example that two guys going hunting brought 10+ horses into the back country. This sorta impact can ruin a trail that is shared with bikes. There's no other user groups with this sorta privilege. Even a dirt bike's impact is limited by the fact one person can only ride one bike. An outfitter with multiple horses, carrying hundreds of pounds of gear into the backcountry, setting up a camp and spending days in the backcountry is the most destructive use.

Then if we go away from a backcountry setting into the main trail networks and pathways around Jackson, our officials have failed to understand and predict uses of e bikes. This should be an easy solution, pedal assist bikes and not the same as a "motorized bikes" Pedal assist bikes should be allowed any where bikes are allowed. Motorized/ Throttle controlled bikes are not "e bikes" and should not be treated as a bicycle. When you add a throttle, you are removing a skill to navigate and control the bike, allowing an adult or child without a drivers license the ability to go speeds much higher than they would be able to control a bicycle pedaling. This simple difference has confused the whole conversation about " E Bikes".

To wrap this up, I am a mountain biker. I love riding bikes, e bikes and dirt bikes. They each have a place and as a responsible user I will not abuse the trails. I paid my ticket, and continued to ride my bike. I will not put my faith in you to protect and share trails equally, as officials have failed that goal.