

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2025 4:15:15 PM

First name: Jannine

Last name: Fitzgerald

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my support for the proposed E-Bike Use Designation on select trails in the Jackson area, specifically regarding the inclusion of pedal-assist e-bikes (Class 1 and Class 3) under project #64890. As an advocate for responsible trail access and an outdoor enthusiast, I believe that pedal-assist e-bikes provide an opportunity for a broader range of individuals to experience the backcountry while still maintaining the integrity of the trail system.

However, I want to emphasize my hesitancy regarding Class 2 e-bikes, which incorporate throttle-driven operation. Unlike pedal-assist models, these bikes introduce a different dynamic to multi-use trails, potentially increasing safety concerns for both riders and other trail users due to their ability to operate without pedaling. Maintaining a distinction between pedal-assist e-bikes and throttle-driven models is crucial to ensuring a safe and sustainable trail experience for all users.

Additionally, I fully recognize and respect the environmental and wildlife considerations associated with expanded trail access. Preserving the natural habitat and minimizing human impact on wildlife should always be a priority. While I support responsible e-bike access, I also trust and defer to the expertise of land managers and environmental specialists in determining the most appropriate routes and regulations to mitigate any potential ecological concerns.

I appreciate the U.S. Forest Service's efforts in evaluating this proposal with a balanced approach that considers accessibility, sustainability, and trail stewardship. I encourage you to continue engaging with stakeholders, including conservation groups, local riders, and public land users, to ensure a well-informed and thoughtful decision.

Thank you for your time and dedication to maintaining and improving our public lands. I look forward to seeing the outcome of this project and hope that pedal-assist e-bikes will be recognized as a valuable and responsible addition to the Jackson area trail network.

Sincerely,

Jannine Fitzgerald