

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/13/2025 3:42:16 AM

First name: Rob

Last name: Hoff

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for allowing e-mountain bikes (EMTBs) on all single-track mountain bike trails, provided they do not have a throttle. This ensures they align with the traditional mountain biking experience while expanding access for more riders.

As a strong supporter of wildlife protection and environmental conservation, I firmly believe that any changes in trail access must prioritize minimizing ecological impact and ensuring habitat security for vulnerable species. The data presented in the Environmental Assessment (EA) supports the conclusion that there is no significant difference between EMTBs and traditional analog mountain bikes in terms of environmental impact, speed, or safety.

Studies referenced in the EA confirm that:

*EMTBs and analog bikes travel at comparable speeds, particularly on downhill sections.

*Trail wear and wildlife disturbance from EMTBs are nearly identical to that of traditional mountain bikes.

Given these findings, I encourage the Forest Service to classify non-throttle EMTBs as bicycles rather than motorized vehicles and allow them on all trails where traditional mountain bikes are permitted.

I specifically support:

*Extending seasonal dates on all Munger Trails and Horsetail from June 15 to October 31 to allow more recreational opportunities while balancing conservation needs.

*Allowing EMTBs on all mountain bike trails north and south of Teton Pass that are not within the Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

*Supporting the strategic development of new trails at Shadow Mountain and Mosquito Creek to enhance the recreational trail network and provide sustainable options for all users.

Providing EMTB access would expand recreational opportunities for a broader range of users, including those who may struggle with steep climbs but still respect responsible trail use. Additionally, allowing EMTB riders to self-shuttle on trails such as Old Pass Road would reduce vehicle reliance, thereby decreasing traffic congestion and lowering emissions that impact air quality and the local ecosystem.

I strongly oppose the development of an app to report EMTB use, as it would create unnecessary division among user groups, lead to false reporting and potential privacy concerns, and place an undue burden on law enforcement for a non-issue, as EMTBs are indistinguishable from analog bikes in many scenarios.

Rather than fostering conflict, I encourage the Forest Service to promote education, responsible trail use, and sustainable recreation practices that align with conservation priorities.

The National Forest Service has an opportunity to modernize its policies in a way that enhances recreation while maintaining environmental responsibility. As someone deeply committed to protecting wildlife and preserving our public lands, I fully support the proposal to allow non-throttle EMTBs on all single-track mountain bike trails while ensuring that any policy changes align with conservation goals.

Thank you for considering my input.

Rob Hoff
Wilson, Wyoming