

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/13/2025 3:57:23 AM

First name: Chrissy

Last name: Stretton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I have lived in Teton County for 30 years as a business owner, swim coach, outdoor enthusiast, and advocate for responsible recreation and conservation. As someone who enjoys hiking, mountain biking, and exploring the natural beauty of our public lands, I strongly support allowing e-mountain bikes (EMTBs) on all single-track mountain bike trails, provided they do not have a throttle. Pedal-assist EMTBs function similarly to traditional mountain bikes and should be treated as such. Expanding access would give more people the opportunity to enjoy our trails while maintaining the integrity of the mountain biking experience.

It is important that decisions regarding trail access are based on factual data rather than speculation. The Environmental Assessment (EA) has shown that EMTBs have no significant difference from traditional mountain bikes in terms of environmental impact, speed, or trail wear.

Key findings from the EA include:

*EMTBs and traditional bikes travel at nearly the same speeds, particularly on downhill sections.

*The impact of EMTBs on trails and wildlife is virtually indistinguishable from that of regular mountain bikes.

With this in mind, I encourage the Forest Service to classify non-throttle EMTBs as bicycles rather than motorized vehicles and allow them access to the same trails as traditional mountain bikes.

I fully support the following measures to improve trail access:

*Expanding EMTB access to all mountain bike trails north and south of Teton Pass, excluding areas within the Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

*Developing new trails at Shadow Mountain and Mosquito Creek to create more sustainable riding opportunities and reduce congestion on existing trails.

*Adjusting seasonal restrictions by extending access on all Munger Trails and Horsetail from June 15 to October 31, ensuring a balance between recreation and conservation efforts.

Allowing EMTBs on certain trails would also help reduce vehicle congestion. Trails like Old Pass Road would enable riders to self-shuttle instead of relying on vehicles, leading to fewer parking issues and lower emissions.

Additionally, I am opposed to the creation of an EMTB reporting app, which would only create unnecessary division among trail users. Such a system could encourage false reporting, increase enforcement challenges, and unfairly target one group of recreationists. A better approach would be to focus on clear trail use policies, education, and responsible riding practices.

Outdoor recreation is evolving, and policies should reflect these changes in a fair and reasonable manner. The National Forest Service has the opportunity to modernize its approach by acknowledging that non-throttle EMTBs are no different from traditional mountain bikes in terms of trail impact. I fully support allowing them on all single-track mountain bike trails while ensuring conservation remains a priority.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my input.

Sincerely,

Chrissy Stretton

Teton County Resident for 30 Years

Business Owner and Swim Coach
Outdoor Enthusiast and Conservation Advocate