Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/23/2025 5:39:21 PM First name: Chris Last name: Owen Organization:

Title:

Comments: I first wanted to thank the staff at the BTNF. This will be my 18th year working on trails in Jackson and I know how much all of you care about the forest and the dillegence you put into decisions like this one. I also wanted to bring up a point I have not seen mentioned in the comments so far. E bikes have the potential to make work on the forest more efficient. I have watched the staff dwindle over the years, from 2 dedicated frontcountry trail workers, to 2 helping with frontcountry projects, to 1, to none. We have gone from 2 trail crew trucks to 1 and now possibly to none. With freezes for hiring there will also be fewer seasonal staff working on other areas of the forest. E bikes may help with some of that. Trail work is brutal and you are often exhausted by the time you hike or bike to the project with all the tools, gravel, lumber, etc. The areas proposed for e bike use in this document could benefit from more efficient access. I often bike with a chainsaw to clear trail and that alone takes up a large portion of my time. Being able to do that more efficiently, or shuttle bridge lumber, or haul tools could help the BTNF and partner organizations to more efficiently do work with fewer staff. Thank you for taking the time to consider this issue. I look forward to helping to fund, build, and maintain whatever solution you choose to implement.

Chris