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Comments: Firstly I would like to thank the Jackson District Office of the BTNF for their thought and consideration on this subject.

I am in favor of allowing EMTBs to ride the trails for which they are designed, which is mountain bike trail.

My biggest concern when reading through the public comments is that people seem to have a lack of understanding of what an electric mountain bike really is. Many seem to hear EBIKE and immediately associate it with people speeding at nearly 30 mph down a bike path or with an electric motorcycle.

EMTBs are more similar to mountain bike than they are to electric pathway bikes or electric motorcycles. When reading the EA it was interesting to see the research that was done on speed in regards to EMTBs. The research tells us that EMTBs climb uphill at just 1 mph faster than a standard mountain bike and on average people on EMTBs descend about 1.5 mph slower than those on a standard mountain bike. This makes them almost identical to standard mountain bikes just with the ability to give assistance to a rider as they pedal.

EMTBs are not going away and will continue to be purchased and used. I think it is the best interest of the Jackson District to allow for class 1 and 3 EMTBs on all trail that is already open to mountain biking. The idea that some trail would be open and other trail would be closed to EMTBs when they are so similar to standard mountain bikes makes for a confusing map of where people can ride and creates a headache for the Forest Service when it comes to managing and enforcing these rules. EMTBs are becoming lighter and sleeker and the average person will have no ability to tell the difference between the two.

My father is nearly 70 years old and still enjoys mountain biking thanks to his EMTB. When he comes to visit me I would love to be able to go mountain biking with him on trail that is purpose built for that sport. Currently EMTBs are labeled as motorized vehicles meaning that they are only permitted on motorized trail. Many people do not realize that motorized single track trail is built and used very differently than purpose built mountain bike trail. Motorized trail is often incredibly steep and technical and not enjoyable for riding any mountain bike on, including EMTBs.

I believe that much of the conflict surrounding EMTBs comes down to humans not being accepting of other ways of recreating or users not being respectful of others safety. Unfortunately those negative interactions will continue between user groups whether or not EMTBs are permitted on mountain bike trails because we are humans and humans are good at conflict. I hope that whether or not EMTB access is expanded on the Jackson district that people can work on how they interact with each other on our shared trails. Respect each others recreation, operate safely around each other, smile, say hi, and remember that multi-use public land is a privilege and should not be taken for granted.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.