Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/25/2025 6:58:09 AM First name: Bryce Last name: Kovi Organization: Title:

Comments: I would first and foremost like to thank the Forest Service on their openness and consideration for outdoor territory expansion when it comes to E-Bikes.

To lead off, I myself work heavily in the bicycle industry and deal a lot with E-Bikes and their riders in the town of Jackson. I have been many places where E Bikes are allowed and faced little to no backlash on the trail systems where they are allowed. This includes the thousands of miles of public trails in British Columbia where there are also protected lands and E Bike regulations much like Teton County and the Bridger-Teton National Forrest.

I am in support of the proposed plan of action or even a combination of Alternative one and the proposed plan.

A prime example of a territory that can hugely benefit from E Bike usage is the Teton Pass trail systems. With a large influx of riders riding the Downhill trails on the south side as well as the cross country trails on the Philips Canyon side, the pass see's a ton of summer traffic. With this comes the overutilization of the limited parking the two sites have to offer. This combined with riders shuttling with potentially 2-3 cars at a time seems to not only create congestion, but I would venture to say it creates more of a negative environmental impact than a couple of individuals on E Bikes riding up Old Pass Road. To further this, Old Pass Road is one of the only stretches of our paved pathways that E Bikes are not allowed on. Not only does this limit the MTB aspect, but it also limits the pathway users such as those on cruiser pathway E Bikes who would like to sight see.

Some E Bike users are riding for the sake of convenience and to maximize riding in a short span of time. But on the flip side, E Bikes especially Class 1, open the door for a large quantity of people who may not be able to pedal a regular bicycle. Whether the person is older and wants to get out and enjoy the outdoors, or they are rehabilitating an injury such as an ACL tear, an E Bike allows them to get back out and enjoy their favorite activities. It shouldn't be a case where many people who are intending no harm and will still obey basic trail etiquette, are considered to be committing a crime by trying to enjoy the trail systems this area has to offer.

Education on trail etiquette is a huge part of how we can minimize the disputes between shared trail users and make the transition to E Bikes as smooth as possible. Manufacturers are only producing more and more E Bikes so there is a line that has to be drawn to create an environment where there is no questioning what is and is not allowed. Prolonging the issue by outlawing E Bikes is only going to promote their illegal use and "poaching". Directional trails may also be a solution to potential traffic and speed issues that will keep multi-use trail users amicable.

I once again thank you for your time and consideration and hope there can be compromise in the near future.