

From: [Barnett Family](#)
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: Pines to Mines Trail
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 9:47:08 AM
Attachments: [Pines to Mines Trail.pdf](#)

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Please read my comment at the Bd of Supervisors meeting on August 10 regarding the agenda item "Pines to Mines Trail". Thank you.
Bob Barnett

Sent from my iPad

Dear Nevada County Board of Supervisors:

This letter is to strongly support the funding for a NEPA study of the potential Pines to Mines trail. As a community based advocate the number one request in all of our polls is for more trails. An important part of our community connections is trails where people encounter other users and connect communities. These are positive experiences and rarely do different types of users have conflicts.

Fear of conflicts between user types (horses vs pedestrians, class one e bikes versus the world, etc) are magnified at Public hearings but rarely occur on the trails. This is based on my experience attending public meetings around Lake Tahoe and my hiking and biking the multi user trails (I log over 1,000 miles per season on trails near Truckee).

I favor the inclusion of class one ebikes as they open opportunity to experience the trails and forest areas to older riders and non athletes. At age 77 I started riding an ebike one year ago. I was just not strong enough to make the uphill (we are in the mountains!) and with the class one ebike I can ride the same routes as when I was younger.

Rider courtesy is what makes multi use trails work. Horse riders slow or stop for pedestrians and bikes. Bikes slow or stop for hikers or horse riders. The fear arguments I hear at meetings are that ebikes can go 20 mph (they are capped at that speed), But horses can go 30 mph and can weigh over 1,000 pounds but that is not a reason to bar their use from the trails. Ebikes, like horses, are under the control of their riders. As for ebikes scaring horses, I doubt a horse can tell the difference between bike models.

In 50 years of using trails I have almost always encountered courteous horse back riders and mountain bike riders (now including class one ebikes). People love being outdoors, seeing the scenery, enjoying the camaraderie with others and experiencing nature. This experience is not a competition among different types of users.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

①
Ginny Dix District 4

- My Comments at the
B.O.S. meeting
Ginny Dix

I have been a member of the Gold Country Trails Council since the very beginning in 1980.

Our mission is to build and maintain non motorized safe trails for hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, and cross country skiers. We worked hand in hand with Tahoe National Forest Rangers and built trails to their specifications and continue to maintain them. Our high point was when the Pioneer Trail became a National Historic Trail. This trail has always been a non motorized trail.

The route of the new trail will connect with the Pioneer Trail.

The area that the new trail covers is also part of Nevada County's history and Nevada County has always been good about maintaining and promoting its history. The pioneers came here by wagon, ox cart, horseback and walking.

Please do not ignore all the work that has been done by citizens of Nevada county that provided safe trails for families to enjoy.

A trail that mixes fast moving motorized vehicles with hikers ,horses and regular bikes is not a safe trail.



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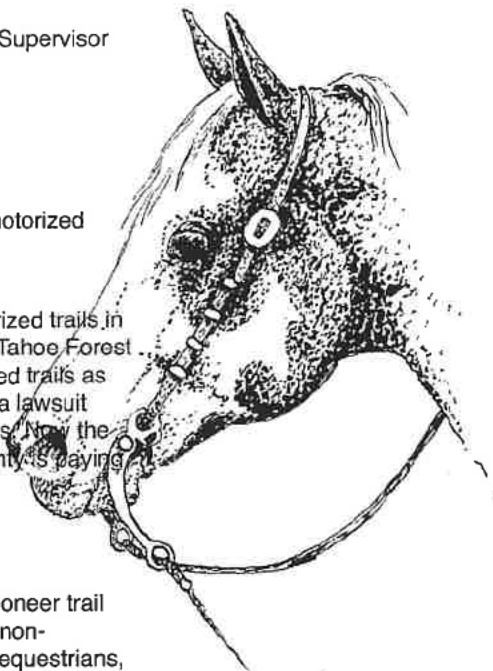
Sample Letter

To: Chairman and members of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors (or your Supervisor as an individual)

From: (name), Nevada County resident, member of Gold County Trails Council

Date:

cc: Julie Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board



I'm sending this letter in opposition to including any reference to allowing electric motorized bikes on the Pines to Mines non-motorized trail.

As a Nevada County resident I enjoy hiking and horseback riding on the non-motorized trails in Nevada County, especially the Pioneer Trail. I'm totally disheartened that the Tahoe Forest Service District Supervisor is trying to impose motorized bikes, on our non-motorized trails as part of the Pines to Mines Environmental Analysis. In 2019 the Forest Service lost a lawsuit when they tried to include motorized bikes on the Pioneer Trail, without due process. Now the Forest Service Supervisor is trying to slip the request into the EA that Nevada County is paying for

Gold Country Trail Council, of which I'm a member, has built and maintained the Pioneer trail over the last 40 years, using Nevada County residents' hard work and sweat, as a non-motorized trail. The trail is designed for hikers, families with children, family dogs, equestrians, and non-motorized mountain bikes (real peddle power). Every day we see more and more out of county individuals coming up to Nevada County to use our trails and visit the Yuba River. If motorized bikes are allowed (the next new thing) on non-motorized trails, the flood gates will be open and Nevada County residents will be pushed out of the trails we built in our own back yard.

I don't appreciate some bureaucrat trying to impose his devious, underhanded action on my non-motorized trails by trying to include motorized electric bikes as part of the Pines to Mines environmental study.

I expect my Nevada County Supervisors to stand up to this chicanery. We know better in Nevada County. We follow the rule of law and have open and public discussions when a major policy change is proposed. If the Forest Service wants to change their policy regarding motorized bikes on non-motorized trails let them do so independently with a separate study in an open and public discussion, with their own money, not surreptitiously put it in an Environmental Document the County is going to pay for with county taxpayer funds. Protect our non-motorized trails and keep any reference to motorized bikes on non-motorized trails out of the environmental assessment for Pines to Mines.

Sincerely - name

Ginny Dix

*Please save the Pioneer Trail
for the people of Nevada Co.*

From: [Allison Pedley](#)
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: Pines to Mines Project Letter
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 12:00:09 PM
Attachments: [Truckee Trails Foundation Nev County BOS Aug 10 Meeting.pdf](#)

Dist 5

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Greetings,

Please find attached a letter from the Truckee Trails Foundation in support of the proposal to allocate funding to assist with NEPA studies for the Pines to Mines Trail. We would appreciate this letter being read out-loud at the meeting, but understand that might not be possible.

Thank you so much for the opportunity; we look forward to the meeting.

Sincerely,
Allison Pedley
Executive Director



PO BOX 1751
TRUCKEE, CA 96160
(530) 587-8214
TRUCKEETRAILS.ORG

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
County of Nevada
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

August 4, 2021

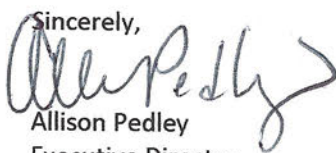
Dear Nevada County Board of Supervisors,

The Truckee Trails Foundation (TTF) builds, maintains, and advocates for hundreds of miles of multi-use trails in our region every year. Our board and staff represent all trail user groups, including backpackers, runners, mountain bikers, hikers, and equestrians. We strive to be inclusive of all ages and abilities and offer diverse trails-based recreational options and sustainable access to natural areas. We also recognize the value of pedal-assist e-bikes in helping people overcome physical challenges so that they can engage in outdoor recreation and enhance personal fitness.

On behalf of TTF, I am writing in strong support of the proposal to fund studies required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the Pines to Mines trail. As an organization that has been actively partnering with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and other local nonprofits in the planning of this proposed trail connecting Truckee with Nevada City, we are acutely aware of how difficult it is to obtain funding for environmental studies. This proposed funding from Nevada County will be absolutely critical to avoiding substantial delay in this project, as it will be challenging for nonprofits to raise this amount of money through individual donors in a timely manner.

We believe this trail, when built, will provide a world-class experience for locals and visitors, providing the challenge that a long-distance backcountry experience offers, but with plenty of options for shorter, more casual use. This trail is envisioned to be a truly spectacular multi-use experience for Nevada County residents and its visitors. With that in mind, we support the USFS decision to include an analysis of Class 1 e-bikes as part of the Environmental Assessment (EA). The Truckee Ranger District recently opened several non-motorized trails to e-bikes, after concluding that this class of e-bike is almost indistinguishable from regular mountain bikes. Furthermore, TTF has had "trail ambassadors" out on our trails all summer long and have had zero reports of conflict involving e-bikes. We have also reached out to Nevada County Search and Rescue, that has no documented cases of serious accidents between mountain bikes and equestrians. We realize that the Pines to Mines analysis may reach a different conclusion on e-bikes than was recently made in the Truckee Ranger District. However, because Class 1 e-bikes are practically indistinguishable from regular mountain bikes, we believe that citizens who require the added support of a Class 1 e-bike deserve to be included in this analysis. ***We do not believe any user group should be excluded without well-documented cause, and therefore support the analysis for Class 1 e-bikes.*** If the analysis shows Class 1 e-bikes are compatible on Pines to Mines, we will strive to ensure the trail is built to minimize risk while maximizing sustainability. We will also work with local land managers on community education and cycling etiquette, while helping to monitor for the presence of conflict.

Thank you again for supporting Nevada County staff involvement in this project to date, and we truly hope you will vote to support funding the USFS NEPA studies as proposed. We believe the return on such an investment will be significant.

Sincerely,

Allison Pedley
Executive Director



From: [Heather Pitts](#)
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: Please support the Pines To Mines Trail
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 3:48:42 PM

Dist 3

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Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Heather Pitts and I am a resident of District 3. I am a Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital RN, working on Tuesday 8/10 and so unable to comment in person or by phone.

I want to urge the Board Of Supervisors to support the Pines To Mines Trail project. As a bikepacker I'm thrilled with the idea of having an all-trail route between Truckee and Nevada City. A route through the Sierra like this will draw bikepackers far and wide. Using the Tahoe Pyramid Trail we would actually be able to start in the Nevada desert, come through Truckee, and end in Nevada City. People could ride it in stages or in one long trip. When we are riding or bikepacking we utilize businesses along the way to rest, refuel and resupply. The trail would be good for us and good for Nevada County businesses, too.

Thank you for supporting this project by voting in favor of the necessary funding to make it happen!

Kind regards,
Heather Pitts, RN, BSN

From: [Steve Minniear](#)
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: Pines to Mines Trail
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 6:56:18 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of County of Nevada email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 6th, 2021

To: Nevada County Board of Supervisors

Subject: Support for the **Pines to Mines Trail**

BoD Meeting Date: August 10th, 2021

Supervisors,

As I will be out-of-town on August 10th, I wanted to ensure I sent you a note on my support for the proposed Pines to Mines Trail.

Pines to Mines will establish a legacy for Nevada County

The opportunity that we have to establish a multi-use trail corridor between Nevada City and the Truckee area is one I believe we should embrace to provide access, recreation and a legacy for Nevada County.

I'm 62 years old, an avid outdoors individual that enjoys hiking and biking along the Highway 20 corridor today in addition to trails on Donner Summit. Pines to Mines will connect these trail systems establishing a vital link in the area.

In addition to recreation, I volunteer between 50 – 100 hours per year helping restore and maintain trails in Nevada County and I'm willing help in support of Pines to Mines.

Class 1 electric mountain bike access

I'm also writing in support of allowing class 1 electric mountain bikes (eMTBs) access to this vital link. Class 1 eMTBs (pedal assist) will ensure all county residents have equal access versus just 'elite' cycling athletes. They are not controlled by a throttle and they have the same impact on the trail as a standard mountain bike. Both eMTBs and regular MTBs have less impact than equestrians especially in soft or wet areas.

Advantages to Class 1 eMTB access

The advantages to allowing class 1 eMTB access include the following:

- **Equal access** to individuals regardless of ability
 - o Increases participation beyond 'elite' or the fittest
 - o Opens the door to those with health conditions that might not otherwise be able to ride
 - o Provides a level playing field due to different assist modes allowing families to ride together from young to old
- Class 1 eMTBs represent the **fastest growth segment** in mountain biking

- o eMTBs are becoming more popular than regular mountain bikes and restricting access will limit the County's potential to leverage this for commerce in the area (People travel to the H2O corridor from throughout the region)

There is a LOT of misinformation surrounding eMTBs. In short, they provide additional pedal assistance over a regular mountain bike plain and simple. Nothing more; nothing less.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposed Pines to Mines Trail and access for class 1 eMTBs.

Steve Minniear