

From: [Jenna Elliott](#)
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: Comment Letter Pines to Mines
Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 10:55:20 AM

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Dear Nevada County Board of Supervisors:

This is the first time I've ever written this type of letter, but I felt compelled to offer my input after hearing comments at the last Board of Supervisor's meeting.

I am 18-years-old and love all forms of trail recreation, but most of all, I love riding horses. My family adopted a wild mustang from the BLM four years ago and my sister and I have been training her ever since. Because we love to ride on trails, it was important to us that we train her well, so that she is not spooked by every surprise that appears on the trail. To that end, she is now bomb-proof and doesn't flinch when she sees bikes or motorcycles on trails. We have never been thrown off, never been run over, never had an incident. It just took some training.

Similarly, I have worked this summer at a horse camp, guiding kids as young as 8 on trail rides. We also encounter bikes, e-bikes, and motorcycles on the trails, and while we have come across a couple rude people, most cyclists are very respectful. Moreover, our horses have not been phased by speed, noise, or any other aspect of wheeled traffic on trails. They are all very well trained horses.

That is why I was so upset by the claims made by equestrians at the last meeting. They purposefully mis-characterized class 1 e-bikes (which require pedaling to move) as "motorized bikes" and made reference to horses being "run over" and spooked in every possible way, leading them to conclude that e-bikes should not be allowed on trails.

Maybe these equestrians truly have experienced these horrible things, but if so, I'm not sure why my experience is so drastically different, except that perhaps the horses I ride are better trained. And if that is the explanation, then doesn't it seem unfair for the equestrians to deny other people access to trails simply because they themselves don't want to be responsible trail users? We all have the responsibility to do our part to use trails properly, as well as share trails properly.

Speaking for my generation, we prefer inclusiveness over divisiveness, truth over fake news, and boundless access to the great outdoors where we can stay healthy and relieve stress.

I hope you'll strongly consider these values of my generation, and vote to help fund the public, fact-finding process for the Pines to Mines trail.

Yours truly,

Jenna Elliott

From: [Jane Ragan](#)
To: [bdofsupervisors](#)
Subject: Support for funding the Pines To Mines Environmental Assessment
Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 12:44:26 PM

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Members of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors:

My name is Jane Ragan and I am a resident of District 1. On August 10 I plan to be in the queue to comment on the matter of agenda item SR 21-0622 to urge you to approve the Resolution to fund the Pines To Mines Environmental Assessment. I'm sending this written comment in case commenting is cut off before it is my turn to speak.

I have been the Bicyclists Of Nevada County (BONC) representative to the project group since its inception in 2015. I've poured my heart and soul and countless hours into it for the last six years.

Pines To Mines is a great project on many levels and deeply deserving of County funding. First, the trail will be a recreation amenity of the highest class. You've no doubt seen how Covid has driven what was already a high demand for trails here up to sky high levels. People need outdoor recreation for mental and physical health and a community is obligated to provide for it. Plus it's a great return on investment. Trails are good for businesses from bike shops to campgrounds and hotels, restaurants and more. What's good for businesses is good for tax revenue. Additionally, you may be aware that Nevada County is chronically one doctor short of being a medically underserved area. Ask the recruiters how important outdoor recreation amenities are for recruiting doctors. Most of us came here for the trails and the skiing and are willing to pay the "pine tree tax" in exchange. The same is true for businesses that would bring jobs here. It's said that as far as business meetings go, "biking is the new golf".

The Forest Service is mandated by law to apply the NEPA process to new trail construction. We cannot complete the Pines To Mines Trail without an Environmental Analysis. NEPA studies are notoriously difficult to fund. Unfortunately, Congress has essentially made the law into an unfunded mandate by virtue of cuts to the Forest Service budget. Using a small portion of County tax revenue to provide such a great benefit to its citizens seems like a no brainer. Once we clear the Environmental Analysis we will have what is called a "shovel-ready project". Then we non-profit organizations can apply for grants like an RTP grant--for which we'll be a very strong contender--and start a capital fund campaign to pay for trail construction and future maintenance.

As far as what precisely the Forest Service needs to study on the public lands it manages, I feel entirely secure in leaving that to its professionals and believe wholeheartedly that you Supervisors should trust in their expertise, too. I saw the concerns expressed during the public comments at the last meeting. However deeply felt they are, from a factual standpoint they are way off base.

I ride almost every day I'm not skiing, mainly along the Highway 20 corridor and in Truckee.

Over the past five years or so I've observed the growth in e-bike numbers and now I'd estimate that they make up somewhere between a quarter and a third of bikes that I see. We just haven't experienced any conflicts as a result of e-bike use. As the recipient of the [REDACTED] e-mails and social media communications I am essentially the complaint bureau. We haven't had any complaints about e-bikes at all. E-bikes are legal all over the area--at Empire Mine, Auburn State Recreation Area, Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, and China Camp State Park to name just a few. Their trails are all heavily used by bikers, pedestrians and equestrians and demonstrate that e-bikes are not, as was asserted, a use that is incompatible with older ones. Consideration of whether e-bikes will be allowed on the future Pines To Mines Trail should not be a factor in your decision of whether or not to fund the study.

Additionally, contrary to what was asserted by a commenter at the last meeting, existing grants and easements are not a barrier to potential e-bike inclusion on Pines To Mines. There are no relevant existing grants or easements on the Tahoe National Forest. As far as potential future grants, the RTP program--the king of grant programs--instructs applicants to apply to its non-motorized category for projects including e-bikes. It's how the Tahoe Pyramid Trail was funded.

It would be frank negligence on the part of the Forest Service not to take this opportunity to analyze for potential e-bike impacts. Given the rules governing NEPA my understanding is that the weight of current use would not even permit them not to analyze for possible inclusion of e-bikes. We don't know what the decision will be--whether to allow them or not--but it will be based on science, not unfounded fears. I've never known the Forest Service to sanction a use that would lead to the probability of serious injury, death and destruction by one user type upon another.

And one more thing about e-bikes--because this really shouldn't be the forum for debating them but this is important to understand--ALL e-bikes, all 3 classes, have a 1-HP motor. That's a 1-HP trail assist. Just like a horse--a 1-HP trail assist.

So for all these reasons and the many more that there is not time allotted to mention, I hope the Board will approve the funding for the Pines To Mines Environmental Analysis. It will yield a treasure of an asset to the County, to our outdoor recreation and tourism-based economy, and to the health and welfare of our tax paying citizenry.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment in favor of this great project.

Jane Ragan, MD

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
To: [BOS Public Comment](#)
Subject: New eComment for Nevada County Board of Supervisors August 10, 2021, Meeting
Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 12:39:58 PM

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[SpeakUp](#)

New eComment for Nevada County Board of Supervisors August 10, 2021, Meeting

Melissa Ribley submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: Nevada County Board of Supervisors August 10, 2021, Meeting

Item: 30. SR 21-0622 Resolution approving the Request for Proposals (RFP) and award selection procedures for "Pines to Mines Environmental Assessment" contract, authorizing the Purchasing Division to advertise for qualified proposals, and directing the Auditor-Controller to increase the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Economic Development budget by \$100,000. (4/5 affirmative vote required)

eComment: I do not support allowing ebikes on designated non-motorized trails. Trail construction and maintenance for a wheel under power is significantly different from the construction and maintenance of a non-motorized trail. There are many miles of trails already approved for motorized use. Allowing motorized use of trails previously designated and used by equestrians, pedestrians and non-motorized bikes will negatively impact the enjoyment and safety of the current trail users.

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