



DUCHESTER COUNTY COMMISSION

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To: US Forest Service

RE: FSM 7700 and 7710 E-bikes (#ORMS-2619)

Thank you for notifying Duchesne County, Utah of the opportunity to comment on proposed updates to USFS directives associated with E-bikes.

Our county contains over 713,000 acres of land administered by the USFS (about a third of our total land area). These lands are heavily used for active and passive recreation by local residents and visitors from the Wasatch Front metro area. Our local culture and economy depend on continued access to forest lands for the public to enjoy. The County is scheduled to adopt a Trails Master Plan later this month and anticipates that public lands trail use will continue to increase in the future as projects in this plan are implemented.

The directive updates incorporate new definitions of bicycle and Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 E-bikes. The updates add trails open to E-bikes as a category of motor vehicle use to be shown on USFS motor vehicle use maps and adds criteria and guidance for responsible officials to consider when designating certain trails for E-bike use.

We agree that E-bikes are an emerging technology and increasingly popular means of recreating on public lands. E-bikes provide a way for citizens, whose age, physical abilities or stamina levels don't permit them to experience many USFS trails, to enjoy these public lands. E-bikes are clean and quiet, so the impact on the environment is similar to that of a traditional bicycle. We support these steps by the USFS to open trails to a broader aspect of the public.

DUCHESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Greg Miles
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Mike Hyde

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Community Development Director