



October 13, 2020

To: National Forest Service

Re: FSM 7700 and 7710 E-bikes #ORMS-2619

This letter is in response to ORMS-2619 seeking comment on proposed directives FSM 7700 and FSM 7710 concerning definitions of and use of e-bikes on National Forest Trails.

Keep Sedona Beautiful (KSB) is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to preserving and enhancing the natural beauty and environment in the greater Sedona Arizona area. The Red Rock District of the Coconino National Forest is of particular interest to us, since Sedona is surrounded by it.

While the definitions of the 3 classes of e-bikes seem reasonable and appropriate, we believe that e-bikes should only be allowed where motorcycles are currently permitted.

Many of the hikers in the Red Rock District are older, as Sedona has a large active-retiree population. The proliferation of trail bikes is already posing dangers to hikers. While most bikers are responsible, a minority do not respect others. They create new social trails, expand the width of current trails by riding outside the boundaries, and effectively commandeer many trails on weekends.

The greatly increased power and speed of e-bikes pose a heightened risk of injury to hikers and to resource degradation. KSB believes that e-bikes pose an additional and unnecessary threat to the safety of hikers.

We do not believe that any motorized mode of transportation should be allowed in any area of the National Forest that currently prohibits their use.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill Pumphrey, President
Keep Sedona Beautiful
Environmental Stewards Since 1972

*Keep Sedona Beautiful, Inc., acting through the stewardship of its members and volunteers,
is committed to protect and sustain the unique scenic beauty and natural environment of the Greater Sedona Area.*