



BOSCH

15. October 2020

U.S. Forest Service
Director, Recreation Staff
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Washington, DC 20250-1124

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

Dear Director,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Forest Service's proposed regulations governing the use of electric bicycles, or e-bikes. We support the Forest Service's efforts to issue new regulations to adapt to changing technologies and recreation patterns, manage electric bicycles in a clear and consistent way both internally and in coordination with fellow agencies, and allow for the use and enjoyment of electric bicycles for Americans seeking connection to natural experiences nationwide.

Specifically and in alignment with People for Bikes, we support the distinction of the three classes of electric bicycles in the proposed rule in order to allow for discrete regulation of different classes of e-bikes on recreational trails; regulate critical issues around e-bike speed, wattage, and motor engagement; and create consistency with the three main forms of product that are currently on the marketplace and within the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission definition of an electric bicycle.

We are also in agreement with the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) in support of class 1 electric bicycles having access to singletrack trails.

We entered the eBike market 11 years ago with the intention of providing environmentally friendly mobility solutions. As a supplier to many different bicycle manufacturers, we've been able to see the development of all types of eBikes and use cases. Everything from patrol bikes for police officers to cargo bikes for families. We've also seen the growth of eBikes for recreation including riding on natural surfaces. We've seen eBikes open up cycling to



broader, more diverse audiences. We feel the assist of an eBike democratizes mountain biking by making it accessible to more people and by bringing in new riders.

We feel privileged to have become part of the mountain bike community and recognize that we all carry a responsibility. We are active in trail maintenance projects (turns out eBikes are great for hauling equipment), trail advocacy groups and programs for youth. We have a strong commitment to cycling and working with land managers to provide great places for people to ride.

This legislation would greatly increase the number of places to ride and open up the beauty of bike rides surrounded by nature to more people.

We would be happy to discuss this matter further and are available as a resource for anything needed by the department. Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Please reach out to Steven Sheffield at steven.sheffield@us.bosch.com or 949 469 8623.

Yours sincerely

Claudia Wasko

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