



## Montana State Legislature

# MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Representative Steve Gunderson**  
House District 1

DURING THE SESSION  
State Capitol Building  
PO Box 200400  
Helena MT 59620-0400  
Phone: (406) 444-4800  
leg.mt.gov

COMMITTEES  
Business & Labor  
Local Government, Vice Chair  
Natural Resources

HOME ADDRESS  
310 Conifer Rd  
Libby MT 59923  
Phone: (406) 334-4370  
steve.gunderson@mtleg.gov

10/17/2020

I am the Montana State Representative for House District 1, South Lincoln County in Northwest Montana. Our area has been used for over 3 decades as a laboratory for the recovery of grizzly bears in the lower 48 states. Our once multiple use forest has had roads gated, kelly humped, bouldered and obliterated to allow for "roadless" areas to accommodate grizzlies. To add to this loss is the addition of a "non-motorized use only" designation. These actions sidestep Congress and create non-motorized tracks where once was multiple use. I and many of my constituents have been barred from access to hundreds upon hundreds of miles of our existing Kootenai National Forest road system due to our inability to walk (or run) these closed roads due to age and medical conditions that are of no fault of our own. Libby is an Asbestos Superfund site that has created 1,000's of citizens with medical conditions that deny access to our once multiple use forest. I am one of those affected by the asbestos curse and have tried to access those closed roads as well but am thwarted by the "motorized" determination currently used by the USFS to classify ebikes. I own a class 1 ebike and see no reason to be barred from use of these roads due to a misclassification by the USFS.

Unfettered access by class 1 ebike is the only access possible to the many, many miles of 2 track roads (not trails) the grizzly recovery process has closed access to. The "non-motorized" classification is needed to return some form of access to the hundreds of miles of roads the grizzly recovery process has created. This is not about back country single track trails but about multiple use 2 track roads.

Time to re-classify class 1 ebikes as non-motorized and to return multiple use to our forest road system. Knowledge about ebikes is limited at best. Many negative comments are made due to limited or no actual knowledge about what an ebike is and what the different classifications are. My constituents and I ask that class 1 bikes be reclassified as "non-motorized" to allow us to access the many, many miles of a once multiple use road system we are no longer allowed to access. The following classification will be added to the Montana MCA this next session to ensure ebikes conform to federal classification.



*Montana State Legislature*

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Representative Steve Gunderson**  
House District 1

DURING THE SESSION  
State Capitol Building  
PO Box 200400  
Helena MT 59620-0400  
Phone: (406) 444-4800  
leg.mt.gov

COMMITTEES  
Business & Labor  
Local Government, Vice Chair  
Natural Resources

HOME ADDRESS  
310 Conifer Rd  
Libby MT 59923  
Phone: (406) 334-4370  
steve.gunderson@mtleg.gov

- (a) An "electric bicycle" is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts.
- (1) A "class 1 electric bicycle," or "low-speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- (2) A "class 2 electric bicycle," or "low-speed throttle-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- (3) A "class 3 electric bicycle," or "speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour, and equipped with a speedometer.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Gunderson".

Steve Gunderson