August 22, 2022

I would like to provide my views on “E-bike use on the Ozark-St. Francis and Ouachita National Forests Environmental Assessment” project.

I’m a 75-year older cyclist and switched to an E-bike about 10 months ago. This has allowed me to better handle the hilly trials and bike lanes in the roads of Arkansas. I have utilized it especially on the many trails in NWA, including the Razorback Greenway. I am a member of the ABC (Ageless Bicycle Club) bike club in Hot Springs Village Arkansas.

E-bikes came about for people to use for commuting to and from their jobs and especially for seniors to continue and get great exercise and explore the great outdoors in our country that a regular bike would not allow.

My E-bikes produces no sound and or emissions, the same as a pedal bike. All E-Bikes are limited to speed and will only provide assistance to the rider if they are pedaling. Again, this helps me conquer hills that I otherwise would have to walk and push my bike up.

In this day and time everything new or different seems to be a controversial topic with some people.

I can find no negatives in the riding of E-Bikes.

Currently, only non-motorized traffic is permitted on many bike trails in Arkansas. ***I fully support the use of E-bikes on the Womble Trail on the Caddo-Womble and Mena-Oden Ranger Districts.*** I think with time, results from allowing E-bikes on the trail system can be used to open other trails to E-bikes.

Thank you for allowing my opinions on this important project.

WGW

U.S. Army Veteran 1966 - 1972

www.fs.usda/project/?project62170