



BLUERIBBON
COALITION

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BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC) is writing to provide scoping feedback for the Questa to Red River Trail Proposal Environmental Assessment. BRC is a national non-profit organization that champions responsible recreation and encourages a strong conservation ethic and individual stewardship. We champion responsible use of public lands and waters for the benefit of all recreationists by educating and empowering our members to secure, protect, and expand shared outdoor recreation access and use by working collaboratively with natural resource managers and other recreationists. Our members use motorized and non-motorized means of recreation, including e-bikes, OHVs, horses, mountain bikes, and hiking to enjoy federally managed lands throughout the United States, including those of the United States Forest Service. BRC members visit the Carson National Forest for e-bikes, mountain bikes, motorized recreation, sightseeing, photography, hunting, wildlife and nature study, camping, water sports, and other similar pursuits. We would like to add our support to any comment submitted by any other individuals or organizations that advocate for electric bike use and increased recreation access overall. BRC members and supporters have concrete, definite, and immediate plans to continue such activities in the future.

Trails and E-Bike Use

BRC supports the allowance of Class 1 and 2 e-bikes on the Questa to Red River Trail. E-bikes provide a low-impact alternative to traditional mountain biking when trails are sustainably designed, constructed, and maintained. This trail system meets sustainable trail design standards that should mitigate any impacts associated with e-bike use. We encourage the Forest Service to implement education and outreach programs if concerns arise regarding public safety, trail conditions, or wildlife, rather than restricting or prohibiting e-bike use.

Federal and state land management agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service, have increasingly approved e-bike use on mountain bike trails to expand access and accommodate a broader range of users. Allowing Class 1 and 2 e-bikes on this trail will ensure consistency with these practices, simplify public understanding of where e-bikes are permitted, and support equitable access for riders of all abilities.

Economic and Community Benefits

Local communities rely heavily on recreation for economic opportunity. Emerging e-bike use represents a rapidly growing segment of the outdoor recreation economy, projected to reach \$15 billion by 2030. By allowing Class 1 and 2 e-bikes, the Questa to Red River Trail can attract more visitors, enhance tourism, and generate economic benefits for nearby communities. Restricting e-bike use would isolate a significant user group and limit potential revenue that can support both local businesses and continued trail stewardship.

Health and Accessibility

E-bikes provide moderate-intensity physical activity and offer meaningful health benefits, especially for older adults or those with physical limitations. They enable users to access more challenging terrain, maintain cardiovascular exercise, and participate in outdoor recreation without undue physical strain. Inclusion of e-bikes ensures that public lands are accessible to a wider range of users, supporting public health and inclusive recreation goals.

Policy Context

The allowance of Class 1 and 2 e-bikes is consistent with federal policy directives that promote public access and recreation. The EXPLORE Act encourages enhanced recreational opportunities on public lands, and Secretarial Orders and Executive directives emphasize the importance of expanding recreational access, including for motorized and mechanically assisted activities. Managing the Questa to Red River Trail to accommodate e-bikes aligns with these priorities while maintaining sustainability and resource protection.

Conclusion

BRC supports shared use of the Questa to Red River Trail, allowing Class 1 and 2 e-bikes alongside traditional mountain bikes. Sustainable trail design, user education, and proactive

management can mitigate potential impacts while maximizing recreation, health, and economic benefits. We urge the Forest Service to finalize the trail plan with explicit provisions allowing Class 1 and 2 e-bikes, ensuring public lands remain accessible, inclusive, and enjoyable for all visitors.

BRCA would like to be considered an interested public for this project. Information can be sent to the following address and email address:

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brmedia@sharetrails.org

Sincerely,

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

Ben Burr
Executive Director
BlueRibbon Coalition

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

Simone Griffin
Policy Director
BlueRibbon Coalition