

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/25/2020 5:24:03 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As longtime users of National Forest trails for hiking and biking in Oregon as well as throughout the U.S., we appreciate the opportunity to have a voice on the proposed changes to the directives pertaining to the use of e-bikes on non-motorized trails (FSM 7700 and 7710). We have both been volunteers for Oregon Adaptive Sports (oregonadaptivesports.org) for many years and are particularly sensitive to the need to have Forest Service trails be inclusive for everyone. We also own Class 2 e-bikes that help us continue to ride trails, where allowed, as we age.

We strongly support the Forest Service consideration of trails that are managed for bicycle use or where bicycle use is allowed to allow the addition of Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes. The designation of the three classes of e-bikes and providing adequate signage on NFS land will be helpful in determining the accessibility of bicycles and e-bikes on NFS trails and roads. We feel the addition of e-bikes on NFS trails will not adversely affect the quality of the trail or the quality of the experience for others on the trail. On the contrary, the addition of e-bikes will provide access for individuals who otherwise may not be able to experience the recreation opportunities on NFS land without the assistance of an e-bike or a throttle (Class 2) to overcome inertia to get the bike going up an incline. A person on an e-bike, riding responsibly, has no more effect on the trail or to other users of the trail than a fit able-body trail bicyclist riding responsibly. A Class 1 or Class 2 e-mountain bike cannot perform any better than a fit person on a classic mountain bike. Therefore, these e-bikes should be categorized with conventional mountain bikes and not be put in a category with combustion engine motorcycles.

We look forward to working with our local ranger district to determine sustainable plans and encourage positive behavior for the use of e-bikes, adaptive equipped bicycles and all bicycles, should the directives change.

We have respectively included an excellent brochure entitled "Accessibility Toolkit for All Land Managers" that helps clarify and define the needs of people with disabilities.

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