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Comments: Dear USFS Ouachita and Ozark Rec and Travel Mgmt Staff,

I support the inclusion of E bikes specifically Class 1 pedal assist with a maximum speed of 20mph on the Womble and Syllamo Trail systems. These are long point to point trail systems that could greatly benefit from EMTB inclusion for self shuttling options. See the attached study from the East Shore of Lake Tahoe done by the USFS in 2021. They found no signs of significant impact when evaluating Class 1 EMTB use on previously non motorized, narrow multi use trails. The same logic should be used in the Ouachita and Ozark Forests for the Syllamo and Womble systems. Ebikes reduce the need for shuttle vehicles and give users greater recreational opportunities especially in areas with more complex vehicle related logistics. Many folks using long distance point to point systems will bring two or more vehicles to shuttle. EMTBs reduce the need for excess vehicles. Less cars, more bikes!

Regards,

Nathaniel Gordon