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Comments: I am an advocate for allowing Class I and Class II e-MTB's on all soft-surface trails under the supervision of the USFS.

Many land agencies allow these bikes on all non-motorized trails. Examples in my home state of Colorado include all Open Space Parks in Jefferson County, Douglas County, and El Paso County, Colorado (The entire Front Range area), Grand Hogback Trail System (near Silt), all Colorado State Parks, as well as countless others. Feedback from these land managers will tell you that ebikes have not increased user conflicts from previous levels.

The BLM (Bureau of Land Management, Under the Department of the Interior) released a statement on October 22, 2019 referencing Secretary's Order 3376 (<https://www.blm.gov/policy/ib-2020-003>) with the following paragraph: "On August 29, 2019, the Secretary of the Interior issued Secretary's Order 3376 to increase recreational opportunities for all Americans, especially those with physical limitations, by clarifying the regulatory status of e-bikes on Federal lands managed by the Department. As a matter of policy, low-speed electric bicycles, as defined by federal law and SO 3376, operated in the pedal assist mode should generally be given the same access as traditional bicycles." See the recent proclamation by the BLM Office in Silt, CO. as an example: [https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/nepa/1503208/20018468/250024537/DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2020-0031-EA\\_bh\\_DR.pdf?fbclid=IwAR32kexnl0dwG6bgFYmpBOPYtUcVa7tTS5w5DoI7EWx\\_hWeUD9btrLU80v0](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/nepa/1503208/20018468/250024537/DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2020-0031-EA_bh_DR.pdf?fbclid=IwAR32kexnl0dwG6bgFYmpBOPYtUcVa7tTS5w5DoI7EWx_hWeUD9btrLU80v0)

America's leading advocate for mountain bike access, IMBA (International Mountain Bike Association), has recently softened its stance on allowing Class I e-MTB's on the same trails as traditional mountain bikes (full information here: <https://www.imba.com/education/emtb>). In part, their statement reads: "We support trail access for Class 1 eMTBs and support shared use on trails as long as access is not lost or impeded for traditional mountain bikes."

I believe that low-power, Class I pedal-assist mountain bikes, when ridden with the respect and courtesy all trail users should afford each other, will not harm trail systems, nor increase negative trail interactions beyond the levels that currently exist. The majority of these interactions are likely due to simple lack of courtesy by trail users, whether that be equestrians, mountain bikers, runners or hikers. Teaching all mountain bike riders to follow IMBA's Rules of the Trails (Control Your Speed; Bikers Yield to all other Users, Leave No Trace, etc.) will keep user conflict to a minimum. Riders on ebikes will be no more or no less apt to create conflict than riders on traditional mountain bikes.

The plain fact is, e-bikes are selling at a rapid pace around the world, and predictions are that the growth will continue. More and more riders will be transitioning from traditional mountain bikes to e-MTB's in the coming years due to age and the health and fitness-related declines that come with it. With proper rider etiquette, e-MTB's are only slightly faster, no more dangerous, and do no more trail damage than traditional mountain bikes already on the trails. Many commenters on this site will try to lead decision-makers to believe just the opposite: that ebikes will be the death of mountain biking, that conflicts will increase, that trails will be destroyed. This is all hyperbole because many riders simply don't like ebikes or the idea of them (or don't understand what they really are).

Please make the proper decision now and allow ebikes on USFS trail systems. Allow those of us who ride them to prove that we will be adequate stewards of the trails; that we can co-exist with traditional mountain bikes; that we will not be the cause of increased user conflicts. Allow us to continue enjoying the sport that we love, without

feeling like criminals on our own public lands. I look forward to your insightful decision.