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First name: Joe
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear US Forest Service Representatives,

I have been an avid traditional mountain biker for about 20 years, and I enjoy it greatly. I recently took a break due to work commitments and am now trying to get back into the sport for recreation and quite honesty sanity during this COVID pandemic. As time has passed and I have aged so has my health to a degree and, simply put, I'm just not as young as I used to be. Hills are far harder for me than they used to be, and riding is now much more challenging. When I heard that electric mountain bikes were out, I thought my prayers have been answered only to quickly learn to my disappointment that they are currently banned in many regional parks and other parks in my area.

For me the reason they simply should not be banned is this direct quote from Proposed Directive FSM 7700:
"8. To consider emerging technologies (such as e-bikes) that are changing the way people access and recreate on NFS lands. For example, where suitable for use, e-bikes may provide new opportunities for individuals who might otherwise be prevented from experiencing an NFS trail without assistance from an electrical motor."
"New opportunities for individuals who might otherwise be prevented from experiencing an NFS trail without assistance from an electrical motor." It's really that simple. An electric assist mountain bike (eMTB) will allow me to ride trails I could not otherwise. Though there can be great confusion and angst in trying to define what class eMTBs should be allowed if there is any reservation here just allow Class 1 - pedal assist only, top speed limited to 20 mph for now. These truly meet the intent of the above addition to Proposed Directive FSM 7700.
Please, please consider enacting these changes especially during this COVID pandemic. These changes are for the better and good of the people who enjoy mountain biking.

Thank you for the attention paid to this letter.

Joe Penitsch