

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/29/2020 1:47:03 PM

First name: John

Last name: Niord

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have lived in the Pacific Northwest all my 50+ years. I used to spend as much time as possible in the Blue Mountain area, whether was hunting, fishing, hiking, or biking. I have mountain biked pretty much every trail I have every heard of in our area. My favorite pastime has been riding and maintaining trails in our area. The last 8 to 12 years I definitely have slowed down and have not gotten out much but I still do some amount of maintenance work.

This development of the e-MTB grabbed my interest immensely. I have watched with great interest the usage of them on our trails and to my satisfaction I have seen many of my old friends get back into exploring the trails of our region again with the use of e-MTBs. This prompted me to purchase one last Fall. I was a little skeptical until I had my own. This has changed my life for the better more than any recent development. I have ridden more in the last 11 months that I have in the last 10 years on my standard bike. I can now ride and explore trails that I did when i was in my twenties. And the most rewarding thing of all is that I have worked my way into better shape now than I was in my 30"s. I will go riding every chance I get.

With recent technological advances I now spend the majority of my time riding and maintaining trails because that is what I truly enjoy the most and I can now contribute like never before. I have never in my life had as much fun on our trail systems than I do now. I have never had as much fun and explored as much country as I have this last year. We have some beautiful trails along the Columbia River that I would never have the chance to see again if it wasn't for e-MTBs.

I strongly support the class 1 pedal assist e-bike the same as non-motorized bicycle and for them to not be considered a motor vehicle. I hope we can open up more trails for people to explore in the future.

They have been literally a life changer for me and I am sure can and will be for many others.

Thank you.