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Organization:

Title:

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US Forest Service

FSM 7700 and 7710 E-Bikes #ORMS-2619

Public Comment

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For over 40 years now the traditional mountain biker (Human power) as been bridging the gap with hikers on our trail systems across this county. The cooperation with these 2 user groups has grown with great success. Traditional mountain bikers have great pride and respect for the trails that criss cross this nation. Traditional mountain bikers have paired up with the hiking community and have spent countless volunteer hours maintaining and building these trail systems. In many parts of this country the traditional mountain biker has built, repaired and maintain trails for both hikers and mountain bikers. The introduction of E-bikes (motorized bikes) on these non-motorized trails will eventually cause conflict with hikers and the non e-bike community, as well with the advancement of more power destruction of the trail systems. No matter how you look at this e-bikes are motorized bikes.

The standard talking points that a e-bike allow people with disabilities and older individuals the opportunity to use these trails is nothing more than that "talking points". I am 61 years old and ride with many riders in the 50's, 60's and even 70's years of age. None of us use e-bikes and can ride and enjoy these trail systems. Encounters I have had with e-bike users, riding illegally on these trails systems have resulted in less than desirable attitudes. They show no respect or concern about the trails and have no desire to help with the maintenance of the trails. In 90+ percent of these encounters the e-bike users are not elderly or disabled, they only want the easy way and have no desire to work at something to achieve the satisfaction of completing a ride with human power only.

The introduction of E-bikes is only the beginning, once you allow class 1, they will start lobbying to get access to class 2 & 3 e-bikes and then you might as well let all motorized equipment to be used. All e-bikes are motorized and should only be allowed on motorized trail systems. The peace and tranquility that we have on hiking and traditional mountain bike trails will be lost forever.

I am writing these comments to ask that you do not make the decision to allow e-bikes on traditional hiking and mountain bike trails. Approval to use e-bikes should only be authorized on motorized trail systems.

Sincerely,

Steve Sapio

Traditional Mountain Biker (Human Power)