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Comments: While I am happy to see the growth of ebikes as an alternative transportation on roads and bike pathways, I am very much against the opening of non-motorized trails to their use. All classes of ebikes move at very different speeds than hikers, runners, horses, and non-motorized cyclists. This speed difference will almost certainly lead to user conflicts and detract from the natural state of our national forests.

I have multiple motorcycles, including an offroad but street legal bike, and feel like there is a place for them national forests but not on trails designated for non-motorized use. As e-bikes become increasingly common, the additional load on our trail system could be significant and the potential for unsafe, inconsiderate, and destructive behavior is much greater than for non-motorized uses.

Attempting to distinguish between different classes of ebikes and enforce policies based on those is naive, at best. The USFS is underfunded, understaffed and lacks the ability to monitor and enforce compliance with tiered ebike regulation. Once ebikes of any type are allowed on non-motorized trails, all types will certainly be present.

Trails were designated as non-motorized for a reason. Why should the type of motor matter? On many trails, an ebike will be able to effectively travel as fast as motorcycles or ATVs. The same arguments for allowing access can be made for any motorized vehicle. I understand there are many who would love to gain access to motorized offroad activities on all USFS trails but it would, in my opinion, be a mistake that would create conflict and damage that cannot be undone in the future.

Thank you.