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Title:

Comments: Hi! I'm writing in support of allowing e-bikes on trails that are currently open to bikes in USFS, BLM, and National Parks. I've been riding for 30 years and because of various health issues, I am severely limited when riding a regular mountain bike. My e-bike has allowed me to still enjoy my favorite sport and take trips to national forests to ride again.

Many of my friends have also purchased e-bikes. For most of them, the bikes allow them to ride more often and/or to ride on recovery days. All of us are experienced and respectful. We may go a little faster on the uphill, but our downhill speed is unchanged and, if anything, we go slower since the motor cuts out at 20 mph. We don't damage the trails any more than hikers or other bikes (and far less than horses, as you know).

Mountain biking is an important source of revenue for many small mountain towns and e-bikes are the fastest growing segment of mountain bikes. E-bikes also allow riders to spread out more and explore trails that are used less. The trails around Downieville are a great example. Many trails in the backcountry are disappearing because they're just not being used enough. E-bikes give easier access to these trails.

I live in Santa Clara County where all of the county parks and most of the surrounding state parks allow e-bikes, which have grown in popularity the last few years. To my knowledge this has not caused any problems between user groups. The average person probably wouldn't even notice the difference in bikes. Thank you for considering the addition of e-bikes to your parks!

Doug Mann