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Comments: I support letting local forest management determine if Class 1 e bikes (pedal-assist, max. speed of 20 mph) are suitable for their lands. Most of the time, if mountain bikes are allowed, class 1 e-bikes should be allowed because their ecological impact is the same. I have a phd in ecology, and have spent my entire life studying the natural world. I have managed large-scale restoration projects and do science in wild places for a living. I hike, run, mountain bike, fish, hunt, etc. on public lands, but I don't ebike personally.

I have been around ebikes and the sound they make is often quieter than the hubs on many non-electric mountain bikes. Thus, the sound should have no appreciable ecological impact beyond a regular bike. It is true that e bikes are heavier than regular mountain bikes and so can affect the trail more. However, both are a lot lighter than horses, and neither takes huge shits in the middle of the trail. So, if horses are allowed, bikes should be too. Ebikes may allow more travel deeper into the forest, but not if there isn't a trail. If this is a concern, then let the local forest say some trails are off-limits to ebikes, and leave the frontcountry open. Problem solved.

Thanks for your consideration.