

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/6/2020 5:17:05 AM

First name: Dan

Last name: Wrobel

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I actively pursue many outdoor activities on NFS lands including mountain biking, hiking, camping and riding ATVs. Having gotten older, 64 years old, I find it more difficult to enjoy the great outdoor activities that I have in earlier years. As a result I purchased a class 1 electric mountain bike and would very much like to ride it on trails that are currently limited to non-motorized vehicles. Comparing it to traditional mountain bikes I find that I have less wheel spin on loose uphill sections with Ebike because the motor helps to even out the torque required to pedal and the biopacing from pedaling a traditional bike exacerbates the problem. On the other hand, the extra weight of the Ebike may cause more tire slippage when riding down loose trails but no more than if the rider were 20 pounds heavier. The speed that I ride easy and moderate trails has increased greatly in the uphill sections from 2 to 3 mph or even walking the non motorized bike to 5 or 6 mph. Even in turbo mode my uphill speed is no greater than a professional racer going uphill - those guys are amazing. My downhill speed has not changed with the Ebike - gravity affects motorized and non-motorized bikes then same. My overall trail speed has increased from around 4 mph with the non-motorized bike to around 7 mph with the Ebike. The sound made by the Ebike is quiet enough that most hikers and bikers do not know that even has a motor. I have ridden the Ebike 800 miles of mostly singletrack trails this year and have passed by hundreds of hikers and bikers and have not heard any complaints about me riding an Ebike. In fact, the vast majority of them didn't even know it was an Ebike. In conclusion I would like to see the non motorized NFS bike trails opened up to Ebike use, it makes it much easier for us older people to continue enjoying the great outdoors.