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First name: Dean

Last name: Cromwell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings,

I am a 60 year old male bike shop owner. I have a replacement hip. I have several perspectives to share.

As a bike shop owner: The consumer demand for e-bikes has doubled over each of the last 4 years! Now to the point is is our largest dollar category. We sell the largest majority to people over 50 years of age. We are seeing lots of folks purchasing e-bike because they simply could not physically ride a regular bike anymore. They are ecstatic to enjoy the outdoors and cycling again. Others without major physical limitation report they ride the e-bike way more often the regular bike they traded for. Hunters are also purchasing bike for access some who have disabilities.

As an avid 60 year old e-mountain bike rider with a replacement hip: I am still fit enough to ride an analogue bike however I choose to ride an e-bike most of the time. I can ride farther and longer. I am looking forward to enjoying mountain biking well into my 70's with the help of an e-bike. I personally have had no user conflicts on my e-bike. I have ridden many local trails on BLM where e-bikes are allowed on bike trails designated as non motorized. I really hope forest service opens up these opportunities for pedal e-bikes. E-bikes are quiet,they are a little faster an climbs and probably most riders will be slower on descents than if they were on a regular bike.I believe there is no significant trail impact difference between an e-bike and a regular bike in fact on steep climbs it may be less as you tend to spin out less on an e-bike.

In conclusion I believe it would but prudent for forest service to classify the pedal assist e-bike as a bicycle opening up recreation opportunities for lots of citizens.

Thanks