Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/7/2020 10:01:09 PM

First name: Francis Last name: LaLiberty

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am in favor of allowing electric assisted mountain bikes on Forest Service trails that currently allow mountain bikes. My preference would be that this only includes class-1 bikes. These bikes do not have any increased environmental impact over regular bikes. They provide an opportunity for elderly and impaired riders like myself to continue to enjoy mountain biking and utilize the National Forests. Riders do not create any greater disturbance to wildlife than do hikers or horseback riders.

Although, technically class-1 bikes have an electric motor, they are no where near the type of vehicle that the term "motorized" was termed to classify motorized vehicles. These bikes require the rider to pedal the bike. The 20-mph limit is already exceeded by skilled riders on regular bikes. The argument that there are more people using class-1 bikes therefore, they should not be allowed is invalid. If there are more users, then I would argue that there needs to be more access.

I urge you to implement the proposed directive FSM 7700 to allow class-1 e-bikes on Forest Service trails the same as regular mountain bikes.