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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support a change of USFS regulations to allow Type 1 e-bikes access to bike-approved, non-motorized trails.

Type 1 e-bikes do not adversely impact the environment or safety:

*Pedal assist bikes do not damage trails any more than conventional bikes. The motors only assist on grades and are not powerful enough to damage trails by spinning the wheels.

*Their batteries and motors are water & spark-proofed and therefore do not present a fire risk

*They do not produce a lot of noise. Their noise levels are so low that people cannot tell if a passing bike is an e-bike or not

*They do not go faster than conventional bikes. Assist is only provided when the bike is moving slowly, usually uphill. Assist is capped so that power is not provided as the bike approaches 20 mph which can be easily achieved on a conventional bike. Therefore, they are no faster or more dangerous than conventional bikes

E-bikes benefit the elderly and disabled:

*Pedal assist bikes provide help to a rider pedaling up a grade. This is obviously a great advantage to the elderly, disabled and people of limited physical strength. This benefit allows all of us access to our trails, not just the young and fit

Current regulations require e-bike users to use motorized trails to which they are not suited and where they are forced to mix with much higher speed OHV and dirt bikes which is clearly a dangerous situation. Adoption of this change will improve trail safety.

Appropriate rules for e-bike use will provide more opportunities for people to explore public lands by bike with less difficulty compared to a traditional bicycle and can help issues such as trailhead traffic congestion and parking.

I love our public trails for both hiking and biking and I still volunteer to maintain them but as I get older it becomes harder to reach them, an e-bike will allow me to continue to enjoy them.

The USFS should not discriminate against physically limited and older folks, please change the current regulation to allow e-bike access.