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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern.

I have read "FSM 7700 and 7710 E-bikes #ORMS-2619" and the Summary documents linked to in the article.

I would like to express my STRONG SUPPORT for the proposals.

I am a healthy 61 year old male who has lived in Ketchum Idaho for the last 20 years. The primary reason I choose to move to Idaho was the abundance of wilderness and the various outdoor activities. For the readers who might not be familiar, Idaho has four million acres of designated wilderness, making it the wildest state in the US other than Alaska.

Ten year ago, I suffered an aortic dissection. I have fully recovered, however my doctors keep me on various medications that restrict my maximum heat rate to about 120 BPM. This covid summer, I have been hiking our beautiful trails 4-5 times a week. Most trails are open to mountain bikers, but are restricted to e-bikers.

Like every other citizen, I would like to be able to ride these trails as well as hike them. Practically, this is impossible without the assistance of an eBike. While I am told that motorized dirt bikes can be harmful to trails, I fail to see how a 61 year old with a pedal assisted eBike is any different than a manually powered mountain bike. Indeed many local riders are much more aggressive than I would ever be. While I do NOT support activities that are MORE harmful than a manually powered mountain bike, I was very encouraged by the summary documents I read, especially 7715.5 section 4b:

"For trails that are managed for bicycle use or where bicycle use is allowed, the extent to which effects from ebike use are comparable to effects from existing bicycle use, accounting for, as appropriate, differences in speed; potential effects from increased or concentrated use; and any site-specific considerations"

I am delighted to see he forest service making efforts to keep up with and adopt with the times.

Thanks for your consideration.

END