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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I am submitting my comments to advocate in support of allowing Class 1 Pedal Assist eMTB's to USFS controlled lands.

There seems to be a lot of fear mongering from the opposed side, that assist eMTB's are very dangerous, cause increased erosion, I have even seen some accuse these bikes of starting wild fires! Which is completely unsubstantiated. As a 5 yr long user of these bikes, in addition to my old classic non eMTB, I have grown to really love and enjoy them with myself and my wife and daughter. It is getting us outside more, enjoying our lands, becoming more healthy physically and emotionally.

Now more than ever, with the pandemic, our American citizens need to get outside more and responsibly use our recreational trails. With the assist bikes, which are NOT motorcycles, the class 1 bikes do NOT have a throttle, you have to pedal them to make them go under your own energy. When the battery dies, you still have to pedal out. My wife and I are experienced long time cyclists and my wife teaches new riders about trail safety and etiquette. We also are apt to doing trail work when allowed and just want to help get more people on bicycles. We know from years of experience that the bicycle can change lives for the better.

Mountain biking is one of the most incredible sport activities you can participate in, but it is inherently very difficult from the effort required to climb up mountains-and that is the main reason I was drawn to it when I was younger. But, I am working more now, older now, and don't have the time to be have incredible fitness required, the assist class 1 eMTB bikes have made mountain biking more enjoyable and safer as we are seeing people not over worked, tired, etc...

Education is critical right now, on these bicycles, there is so much misinformation regarding these bikes. Any anecdotal stories from people opposed to the bicycles come from a rider that was just practicing unsafe riding etiquette anyway and we need to address that in the bike community, it is not an "Ebike problem" it is a asshole problem as I like to call it, and every genre has this-hikers, equestrians, jeepers, etc...education is the key and allowing more people to enjoy our lands, in a safe manner will lead to more education and advocacy overall, create a healthier society, happier society.

I undeniably support class 1 eMTB access on federal, state, public lands, USFS. Please open up the trails and let us people know when, where we can show up and help maintain the trails. We ALL can get along on multi use trails, with the appropriate signage, education, it can be a beautiful thing.

Craig Glaspell

Mountain Bike Rider