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Comments: I am in favor of allowed ebikes on US Forest roads/trails.

Those who are against ebikes fall into two categories.

1. The elitist bicyclist who frown about motorized assist for cycling. This is purely a pride/ego thing. What about the war veteran who needs an ebike to enjoy trails? What about the post heart attach victim who still wants to ride? Are you going to deny them the opportunity to ride US forest roads because they need a motor?
2. Those are miseducated on what an ebike actually it. They equvalate ebikes to electric motorcycles or dirt bikes which they are not.

The majority of ebikes which are even capable of going on forest roads/trails are categorized as Class 1 which means pedal assist only. They do not have a throttle. They are regulated to a max assist speed of 20 mph. Any cyclist in decent enough shape is able to reach this speed without a motor. Therefore the belief that ebikes do more damage to trails is incorrect. They are battery powered. That means they will be limited in range to a certain extent. So the idea of an ebike traveling all over trails tearing it up is not true.

Though technically an ebike is a motorized vehicle, I believe when US Forest first banned motorized vehicles on certain trails the idea was of gas powered ATVs or dirtbikes. Times have changed. If you wanted to get really technical, the human body is a motor also. Any world class cyclist will generate more power than any commercially available ebike could.

Many people who ride ebikes do so because they are physically unable to without assist from a motor. By allowing ebikes, you will be opening up more of the US Forest to a greater number of people. This can only mean more money for US Forest and surrounding areas. This is a win win situation for both sides. More access for ebikers. More money for US Forest.

I have been riding ebikes for well over 5 years now. I ride my ebike to and from local ride areas in Colorado Springs where others take their cars carrying their bikes. Which is more environmentally friendly? The answer is simple.

Allow ebikes. Thank you.