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Organization:

Title:

Comments: RE: FSM 7700 and 7710 E-bikes #ORMS-2619

Thank you for considering my comment below in your decision regarding opening United States Forest Service (USFS) non-motorized trails to ebikes (e.g. bicycles having an electric motor to assist pedaling).

As an avid mountain biker and daily walker, I have used USFS non-motorized trails in several states including Idaho as my home state for many, many years. In these pandemic days where stress and anxiety seem to be the new norm, I find human power use on non-motorized trails therapeutic and necessary. I am strongly opposed to opening up designated non-motorized USFS trails.

I strongly believe that the USFS needs to continue managing open space and non-motorized trails as separate uses within Travel Management Plans. Existing Plans allow for user diversity and multiple use as a whole.

There is no basis or precedent for allowing motorized travel on non-motorized trails. This is arbitrary.

Ebikes, regardless of classification, have motors. A motor is a motor! Even class 1 ebikes, claiming to be "pedal assist", have motors that allow an ebike to travel at speeds of up to 20 mph...uphill... using up to 700 watts of electrical power. Most non-motorized trails are not designed to safely accommodate an ebike traveling 20 mph. My observations are that most non-motorized trail use include walkers, joggers, runners, dogs, children (playing and not paying attention), and human-powered mountain bikes; all of which are exerting less than 100 watts.

Adding an ebike with even 250 watts (e.g. low end Class1 ebikes) creates an unsafe environment for all users.

Unprecedented use has led to busy and congested non-motorized trails. Trailheads are already jam-packed with users with the potential for increased user impacts (e.g. trash and sanitary concerns). Adding ebikes, another significant use, will cause undue and unnecessary degradation.

Let's not open everything up to motorized use. Preserve what little mountain and range open space still available for peace and quiet.

Thank you for considering these comments as part of the public record regarding ebike usage in non-motorized USFS trails.

Best Regards,

Dan Anderson