Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/11/2020 4:07:57 PM First name: Valerie Last name: Alexander Organization:

Title:

Comments: There is a broad misconception regarding class 1 e-MTBs, in particular. If you have never ridden one on an actual trail for at least five miles, you clearly do not understand the concept of, or the many scenarios in which why individuals such as myself, friends and family members are in favor of and ride one. I feel trail access to class 1 e-bikes should be approved in all areas of the national forest lands where traditional mountain bikes are allowed. Class 1 e-bikes are a pedal assist bike with speed limiters, there is no throttle nor gas powered motor, in addition there is no greater impact on the trails than any other mountain bike, and both have far less of an impact than that of a horse. Allowing class 1 e-bikes where mountain bike use is currently permitted would be appropriate. Class 1 e-bikes are being enjoyed by many users and sanctioned or not, use has been shared extensively on both motorized and non-motorized multi-use trails. Should trail use of an area become an issue then a fair means of sharing it between trail users should be created with no discrimination against one type in favor of another. Mountain bike and class 1 e-bike impacts are comparable and it is important that no bicycle access be removed in the process of allowing access for class 1 e-bikes. It is disheartening to imagine anyone could argue the point that class 1 e-bikes should not be allowed on trails to the many individuals who would otherwise be unable to ride who are limited by handicaps or injuries that prevent them from manually pedaling a traditional mountain bike uphill. I am asking you to consider the allowance of class 1 e-bikes on all trails where mountain bike access is allowed. The hate and confrontations on the trails from non-supporters is unacceptable. We should all be allowed access to the trails and the beautiful outdoors, please consider the handicapped and elderly in your decision making process.