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First name: Louis

Last name: Voulelis

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings,

I would like to express my support for allowing category 1, pedal assist, ebikes on federal lands. I have been mountain biking for nearly 40 years. As I age, and my peers age, it becomes increasingly more difficult for them to continue to enjoy the sport. age and disability take its toll. Pedal Assist bikes have allowed aging cyclists and those without a high degree of fitness to enjoy our public lands. My experience has been that pedal assist ebikes do not result in excessive speed on trails (uphill or downhill), erosion or overuse of trails or safety issues for hikers or other cyclists beyond what currently exists with standard bikes and athletes who have a high degree of fitness and skill on trail.

My wife is recovering from cancer treatment and I suspect will never regain her fitness level or ability on a mountain bike (she was formerly quite adept and skilled). We purchased a pedal assist e-mountain bike for her and it has allowed her to once again cycle in the areas we love. It has allowed us to be able to ride together and keep pace while still getting a workout. She does not ride faster than her non e-bike contemporaries and in fact, typically rides slower.

Allowing pedal assist e-bikes on public lands, you will open access to many Americans with limitations that would otherwise be shut out from one of our countries greatest assets: open space.

Please move to allow pedal assist e-bikes in these areas.

Respectfully,

Louis D. "Jim" Voulelis, MD