

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/15/2020 9:59:10 PM

First name: Gregorio

Last name: de Haro

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm writing this in support of allowing class 1 ebikes on all single and double track mountain bike trails in the forest service domain in the United States. As a current mountain biker over age 50 and one that has been mountain biking for over 30 years I have been aware and using class 1 ebikes a for some time. They help older riders with or without some age related health conditions to continue to ride Mountain bikes and stay healthy. As one ages it becomes ever more important to keep physically active and engaged in sports that you love and that allow you to be outside in a beautiful setting as mountain biking does. I don't see a conflict between a class1 mountain bike or a regular mountain bike due to the necessity to pedal the ebike to move forward and the limiting speed of 20 mph. Most downhill riders on any bike will go faster than that if desired without a motor. The biggest benefit is to add a small boost to the rider on an uphill climb so as not to put the (older) rider in a situation where they are raising their heart rate to an unhealthy or unsustainable level that could result in a stroke or other heart / lung related issues.. it is for these reason I am hopeful that the forest service will revise its current policy regarding class 1 ebikes and allow them on all our trails as they do in Europe today and not discriminate against their use especially by older riders. When the current criteria for non motorized bike travel was established years ago there was never a class 1 ebike envisioned in its future and it was written to address motorcycle and 4 wheel vehicle travel. Times and bike technology have changed and the forest service and non motorized bike laws should change with the times. We keep hearing about how unhealthy the American population is becoming and aging so it's only more critical that all avenues for all citizens to recreate and stay health are championed going forward in today environment. I appreciate you letting me put my opinion forward in this posting