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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to support the changes proposed by the US Forest Service to expand E-bike access of Class 1 pedal-assisted, non-throttle bikes to non-motorized trails where traditional bikes are currently allowed. I further support the definitions of the 3 e-bike classes.

I believe these changes will help promote healthy, active lifestyles, improve access for trail users and expand economic opportunities for those communities where these trails are located.

As a current Class 1 e-bike owner and user I do not ever exceed speeds much greater than a traditional mountain biker on ascents and certainly not anywhere near 20 mph. Climbing still requires a large amount of physical effort and exertion with a pedal-assisted e-bike and as such is a great form of exercise and attainment of fitness. Descending on an e-bike is not any faster than a traditional mountain bike given that descending speeds are dictated by gravity and not by pedaling speed as one does not typically need to pedal on the descents.

I further believe that these changes will allow those with physical disabilities or those older in age increased opportunities to recreate and participate in the sport of mountain biking with traditional mountain bike riders. I often see people who are in their 60's and 70's on class 1 e-bikes out riding with their children and grandchildren who are on traditional mountain bikes.

Overall I think the benefits gained by these changes will greatly improve access, foster greater use, conservation, and maintenance of existing trail networks as more people realize the benefits of our National Forest lands. This should bring greater funding sources and economic opportunities to the US Forest Service, local communities, and service industries relating to mountain biking.

Sincerely,

Tom Pollick