

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/17/2020 10:59:09 PM

First name: Edward

Last name: Wales

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Edward Wales. I'm a Professor Emeritus and a 68-year-old class 1 e-bike rider from Southern California. I ride with a relatively large group of e-bike mountain bike riders (10 plus), who range in age from 45 to 78 years of age. It is our hope that U.S. Forest Service will consider allowing or continue to allow class-1 e-bikes access to the National Forest system. We all ride at least three times per week and ride in the San Bernardino Mountains several times a year. We primarily ride in Riverside County and have also ridden in Mammoth Lakes, Lake Tahoe, Hurricane, Moab, and Park City, UT and Grand Junction and Fruita, CO. We always follow proper trail etiquette, especially when it comes to hikers (most of us have bells on our bikes to warn others of our approach). We also pick up trash that others leave behind. Please note that we are discouraged as to how much litter is left behind by others. I've been mountain biking for over 15 years, and have never seen another mountain biker litter.

We feel that our trail impact is minimal and comparable to human-powered mountain bikers (most of us still ride sans motors as well). Several members of our group are hikers and one of our primary concerns has always been trail maintenance and safety.

Please also note that if it weren't for e-bikes, a few of our friends would not be out there with us due to various medical conditions. Class-1 e-bikes have opened up new horizons for folks who would otherwise not have a chance to experience the great outdoors. I heartily believe that class-1 e-bikes should be permitted in our National Forest System as they are still pedal powered. We love our National Forests and hope you'll support our love of e-mountain biking too. Actually, I encourage Forest Service decision makers to take a spin on an e-mountain bike. I guarantee the ride will bring a smile to your face.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward "Todd" Wales