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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Members of the USFS: It is with much emotion that I ask you to allow

Class 1 e-bikes on all forest service trails that regular bikes are allowed to be on. I live in Seward, Alaska, where most of the trails are managed by the USFS. I have lived here for 32 years and have used these trails for mountain biking. I will be 69 yrs. old on the 27th of this month. Over the years, unfortunately, with age my many outdoor activities have taken their toll on me. Last summer I realized I would have to quit mountain biking because I could no longer take the stress on my body. This past winter I bought an e-bike! I was overcome with emotion as I realized that I could ride the trails again. However, all the trails near me are managed by USFS and were excluded for my use. I have agonized over this for the last 9 months! I have followed the DOI advancements with e-bike allowance with great eagerness, and have prayed for the USFS to do the same. Since I have been an avid mountain biker for 30 years, I have grown to know bikes and trails! I can attest that an e-bike will not affect a trail any more than a regular bike. They are as safe with hikers, bikers, and horses as a regular bike. I have experienced no harm to the trails or to the environment. My bike is essential to me, as I am a gym owner and a primary care-giver to my wife, who is bed ridden with Multiple Sclerosis. I NEED my bike and the trails for time to release tension, stress, and maintain my physical strength to provide the care needed for my wife and my business. Please, allow the many of us who have similar situations, or who simply want to ride farther and easier, the freedom to do so. It is vital to our lives! Please, permit all class 1 e-bikers to ride all USFS trails where regular bikes are allowed.