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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly support the use of e-bikes any place that regular bikes are allowed. While e-bikes do provide some assistance to the rider, the speed and environmental impacts are quite similar. E-bikes do, however, allow those who are unable to ride a traditional bike off-road due to physical impairments or advanced age the opportunity to enjoy our national forests.

As a new class1 eMTB owner, I can tell you first hand that they're not what many people think they are. While they do offer some assistance to the rider, they have to be peddled in order to move forward. A It's very important that people learn about things that they are commenting on, as I believe many of the people commenting, are not educated on the matter.

I helped construct and maintain the mountain bike trails in the Uwharrie National Forrest. Cancer, a hear attack, an autoimmune disease, and 68 years of "life have made it impossible for me to ride a traditional mountain bike anymore. I bought an e-mountain bike a few weeks ago, and I can now ride it 25 miles of mountainous roads. Unfortunately, because of current regulations, I cannot ride my e-bike on the trails that I helped build.

Again, I strongly support that e-bikes be allowed access any place that traditional bikes have access. That will allow those with disabilities or advancing age to have equal access to our National Forrest lands.

A final note. I am opposed of classifying e-bikes with motors of 760 or less watts as motorized vehicles. The requirement that pedals must be used before the motor activates makes e-bikes fundamentally different from normal motorized vehicles.