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Organization: Front Range Mtn Bikers

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Comments: Class 1 e-bikes should be allowed on all USFS and other public trails.

I am the Trails Mgr for Clear Creek County in Colorado, Organizer of the largest Mtn Bike Meetup group in Colorado - FRMB (Front Range Mtn Bikers), and 59-year-old class 1 e-bike rider. I also have a standard mtn bike and road bike, and ride 3-5 times per week. I work with my trails crew to build and maintain trails 4 days a week which provides me the oppty to speak with many riders and hikers regarding use of e-bikes. 99% of the folks I speak with have no problem with pedal assist e-bikes that are limited to 20mph max. It is a non-issue to them and they understand that as people get older or unable to ride at the level they did 10yrs ago, or they just aren't up to pedaling 10 miles today, that e-bikes make a lot of sense. It is our hope that U.S. Forest Service will consider allowing class-1 e-bikes access to the National Forest system. All of our state parks here in Colorado, and many County trail systems (including ours) allow class 1 e-bikes without any problems. I can now keep up with my 30yr old son and we can ride together - something I hadn't been able to do for the last 5yrs. I am also now able to continue riding with a certain weekly mountain bike group which I had started to drop out of because I was unable to keep up with the group. I truly believe that class 1 e-bikes have extended my cycling life expectancy at least 10yrs. Several people I know who had parked their bikes in the garage several years ago are now out on class 1 e-bikes riding again, improving their health and well-being during this difficult time of COVID.

We always follow proper trail etiquette, especially when it comes to hikers and horses. I've been mountain biking for 25 years and have rarely seen another mountain biker litter or purposely cause conflict with other trail users - these are the same folks that are now switching to e-bikes. We feel that our trail impact is minimal and comparable to human-powered mountain bikers (most of us still ride regular bikes as well). Several members of our group are hikers and one of our primary concerns has always been trail maintenance and safety.

I encourage Forest Service decision makers to try out an e-mountain bike themselves to understand our perspective!