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First name: Brian

Last name: Blackwell

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

RE:FSM 7700 and 7710 E-bikes #ORMS-2619

I support the Forest Service's efforts to revise policy incorporating "Zero Code". However I object to the eBike being designated as a "Motor Vehicle". I believe that clear policies and rules for electric bicycle use on NFS managed land will facilitate electric bicycle management, give more Americans opportunities to explore our public lands, and provide common sense solutions for pressing issues such as traffic congestion, parking, maintenance and emissions reduction. Current policies and laws concerning electric bicycle use on public lands are outdated and are confusing for land managers, consumers, small businesses and local governments. These changes are a step in the right direction toward resolving that confusion.

I respectfully request one modification to the proposed changes: that electric bicycles be defined similar to a wheelchair or mobility device, "Motor Assisted Bicycle". Electric bicycles are ridden, and should be managed, like traditional bicycles rather than motor vehicles. As an aging cyclist, my desired experience is identical to that of a regular bicycle rider. I seek the opportunity to ride an e-bike on the types of trails, roads, and paths that are designated as non-motorized. These areas should continue to be designated as non-motorized and land managers should have the discretion to permit e-bike use. This would align Forest Service policy with other US laws in which the DOI and 28 states (and counting) define electric bicycles as bicycles, excluding them from the motor vehicle classification, and generally allow their use on non-motorized trails.

Sincerely,

Brian S Blackwell