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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my support of including e-bike use on trails that are open to mountain bikes. I agree with the reasoning that e-bikes allow people with health challenges to enjoy the National Forest Trails that would otherwise be inaccessible to them. There is no scientific reasoning not to allow e-bikes where mountain bikes are allowed. I.M.B.A. concluded such findings in a study they performed. Chronic health issues have made riding a mountain bike impossible, so been I have been riding a class 1 e-bike on rugged singletrack trails that are open to motorcycles for 4 years and mountain biking for 26 years total. The e-bike delivers a smooth and steady power transfer to the tires that make it less likely to slip on steep uphill and therefore create less trail damage or erosion than a mountain bike or even a motorcycle. I do not ascend trails any faster than my fellow mountain bikers, so as to maintain good traction and battery power. On descents I am not faster than fellow mountain bikers because I am not pedaling with electric assistance on the downhill. Without the advent of e-bikes I would no longer be able to partake in my favorite activity, socialize with friends on mountain bike rides, maintain a healthy level of fitness or travel and spend money while mountain biking. To any or all naysayers, please take some of your fear and hatred out of this equation and perhaps realize that your fear of losing some freedom is potentially effecting someone else's freedom to enjoy their most favorite aspect of their life. Thank you