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Comments: I am in favor of allowing e-bikes in forests and parks and they should :NOT be treated as motor vehicles! They are not!

E-bikes have ratings. E-bikes that are allowed on trails have a TYPE 1 rating, which is no speed over 20 MPH. Other ratings are not allowed on trails and are considered STREET bikes, whether they peddle or not.

This is nonsense. They are talking about class 6 or 7 bikes, not trail bikes. Of course, they would have to patrol the trails for violators. And fine them heavily. Then the word would get out and any illegal use of those trails would stop or curtail. Another thing that could be done is to limit entry to the forest or park at the gate by checking and requiring that all e-bikes have a speed rating sticker or a license of some type. That could be a money maker for parks.

But to classify ALL E-bikes as prohibited because some E-bikes can travel faster than 20 mph is like cataloging all wildlife as dangerous and therefore not allowing any human into the area.

Where I live, I ride a Type 1 E-bike. I share the trails with Horseback riders, hikers, bikers, Rollerbladers, baby carriages, and dog walkers. There has never been a problem other than MOTOR bikers using the trails, and that is against the law.

The problem is not the Type 1 E-bikers. The problem lies with those who will disobey the law regardless of where they are. And that has to do with patrols and fines. If the trails are vehicle patrolled (which can be done by volunteers in well marked vehicles), and strong fines are metted out, illegal use of the trails will be greatly curtailed or stopped.

Equipping an E-bike with a bell will alert wildlife to their approach. This is a gentle alert and wildlife does respond.

E-Bikes of Type 1 would have far less of an impact on wildlife than hunting wolves for sport or building a highway or oil pipeline or drilling would have on an environment! And E-bikes are CLEAN on air.

Type 1 e-bikes are rated the same as bicycles. No different than a racer bike which can go faster than a Type 1 e-bike.

Lastly, these are NOT mountain bikes. They must be on PAVED trails. So the reasons stated for PREVENTING e-bikes in national forests and parks are incorrect and the Forestry Service should reconsider banning them completely.