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First name: Randall

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: FSM 7700 and 7710 E-bikes #ORMS-2619 I favor allowing e-bikes to go any place that horses are allowed. We need as many people to enjoy the outdoors as possible. E-bikes allow people to venture further into America's public lands so they feel like they are the only person for miles around. The development of batteries and motors is going to allow me to get further back into the forest with my bad back and knees. Back into areas I have hunted and recreated for decades. When I am miles from the main road - it allows those who are enjoying nature from the main road to feel the solitude, calm, independence, reflection, and experience of God's creation before the intervention of man. The noise of internal combustion motor has long been the hurdle for handicapped, the aged, and those who just do not have the time to ride a horse from exploring the depths of our public lands. E-bikes conquer this hurdle. At least you have a fighting chance to conquer the saddle sores of an E-Bike.

500,000 Montanans own hunting-fishing-conservation licenses. Montana receives more per capita from the Pittman/Robertson & Dingell/Johnson federal sales tax [which was self imposed by sportsmen] on hunting and fishing equipment which is used to provide Public Access to Public land, conservation easements, and purchase land for public recreation.

Montanans spend more time out doors than every state Except Vermont.

Import-Export is the #1 economic sector in Montana; Manufacturing is #2; Tourism is #3; and Agriculture is a distant #4 [by about half of Tourism]; 7 billion dollars for Tourism and 4 billion dollars for Agriculture. Agriculture is NOT part of the Import/Export number. Tourism / Outdoor Recreation supports 71,000 Montana jobs.

46% of Montana's Tourism dollars come from 1 million Montanans. 54% comes from 12 million non-residents. But, more public access to public land will generate more economic stimulus from Montanans than it will from non-residents because non-residents do not want to wander that far from their car.