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Title:

Comments: I support the use of E-bikes in the forests. I am a long time mountain biker and so not mind that some may use e-bikes to enjoy the benefits and wonderful recreational opportunities that mountain biking offers. The comments about e-bikes reaching speeds of 55 MPH are completely blown out of proportion. We're talking about pedal assist bikes here, they just help you get uphill and assist is cut out at 20 MPH. 30 years ago, mountain biking was for rebels, it was going to destroy our forests with wreck the trails. If you look at the results, well nothing could be further from the truth. From Downieville, CA to Brevard, NC, mountain biking has given depressed communities a second chance in what used to be areas that had seen young people migrate to urban centers in search of work. Mountain biking associations have sprung up across the country to help manage and maintain trails for the enjoyment of all who wish to hike, horse ride or bike the forest. The mountain biking industry has created opportunities for all kinds of folks, and I feel e-bikes are going to help young ones get into the sport and help aging mountain bikers stay active. As the technology keeps improving, e-bikes that are really quiet now will keep on getting quieter. Resisting this proposed change to allow for the use of e-bikes would be futile and would potentially be a missed opportunity to regulate their use early before their sales overtake the traditional mountain bikes, at which point we'll see a lot of illegal riders in the woods who will cut unapproved trails.