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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I purchased a Class 1 EMnt bike to commute between work and home, primarily in the winter with studded tires. It works great for that. I have since used it as an alternative to my regular mountain bike for extended rides on local single track trails in Anchorage. I ride to near by trail systems rather than putting my bike on a car rack and driving to the trail head. It helps reduce my carbon foot print. I am 59 years old and find that the bike extends the length and difficulty of the trails I am capable of riding. I know several people around my age that also have e-bikes. In riding my e-bike on single track trails, I've thought about what the concerns might be for other users. I think the additional weight and the additional speed are probably their concerns, both from trail damage and danger to other users. After thinking about it, I don't think either weight or speed merit much concern. The additional 10-20 lbs difference of an e-bike over a regular mountain bike is less than the difference in the range in weights of various riders. Regarding the speed, a fast young rider can keep up with and pass an older rider on an e-biker (they've done this) so the up hill speed of the bike isn't really a factor. The down hill speed is also less determined by the motor than it is the trail conditions and grade. I find that I'm not pedaling on most tight downhill trails. On gravel roads, if I exceed 20 mph my motor cuts out. Damage to trails by weight or speed and danger to other trail users because of speed are less significant than I would have thought before I owned and used an e-bike. My uphill speed is about the same as a fast young rider, my down hill speed is about the same as riders in my skill level. Speed is limited on downhills when turns and grade are already too much for pedaling. So I'm not going faster than a faster biker so I'm not more of a danger to other trail users. I'm not heavier than a heavy person on a non-e-bike so I'm not doing more damage. By allowing the use of e-bikes you are allowing people with disabilities, physical limitation and age limitations to access more areas of National Forests. It gets more people out exercising and enjoying our amazing National Forests. It has very few downsides and many upsides. I ride farther, more often and with less stress to my body, I use my car a little bit less as well.