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First name: James

Last name: Reiter

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thanks for allowing the public to comment on FSM 7700 and 7710. I am an avid rider of traditional mountain bikes and class 1 eMTBs, so I very much have a vested interest in these directives.

The mountain bike community is responsible for a large part of the natural surface trail infrastructure that exists today on our federal, state and local public lands. Hundreds of organized mountain bike clubs around the country manage thousands of volunteers who work closely with land managers on trail development, trail maintenance, and trail education for all users. Much of this work relies on funding sources specific to non-motorized trail projects.

I am concerned that the proposed directives could jeopardize this funding and increase user conflict if non-motorized trails were to become reclassified as motorized to allow for eMTBs. Instead, the final directive must reconsider how to allow class 1 eMTBs on select non-motorized trails while retaining a trail's non-motorized status, similar to the recent Department of Interior final rule. The final directive can be further improved by following the International Mountain Bicycling Association's management recommendations: managing the three classes of e-bikes separately from one another, and prohibiting class 2 and class 3 eMTBs on natural surface, non-motorized trails.

I do believe that class 1 eMTBs should be allowed anywhere that traditional non-motorized mountain bikes are allowed, while disallowing class 2 and 3 eMTBs except on trails specifically designated as motorized.

Thank you for the willingness to engage with the mountain bike community.

Sincerely,

James Reiter, San Luis Obispo