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Comments: As an avid mountain biker, hiker, canyoner, caver and general outdoor enthusiast, I appreciate the forestry service proposing changes to trail access specific to e-bikes. With local and national mountain biking groups, I have helped create and maintain large parts of the available trail networks in my region. These organizations have to work closely with land management and other orgs to raise funding and receive grants to support the trail work that is done.

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 feel that e-bikes can enhance recreational opportunities, even providing access to those with medical conditions that would otherwise be unable to ride a bike on trails. However, e-bikes also need to be regulated to avoid causing trail conflicts or excessive environmental impact. The 3 class system aims to categorize the impact the different types of e-bike will have, and should be leveraged to allow only those with minimal impact, class-1, to access trails categorized as non-motorized.