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Organization:

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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity for the public to engage on FSM 7700 and 7710, Forest Service directives regarding the management of electric bicycles on National Forest System lands.

My main point is that Class I ebikes should absolutely be allowed on some trails currently classified as non-motorized. These are assist bikes that open up riding to individuals with disabilities, older individuals and individuals who wouldn't otherwise be able to access some of the steeper, more technical trails or ride distances that they wouldn't otherwise be able to. This new technology provides access and has made it possible for me to ride my local trails with my family and friends.

I believe 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.

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

Sincerely,

Sammie Macfarlane, Providence, Utah