

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/22/2020 11:10:20 PM

First name: Todd

Last name: Reitmeier

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to engage on FSM 7700 and 7710, which would revise Forest Service directives to update and clarify guidance on management of electric bicycle (e-bike) use on National Forest System lands.

The mountain bike community and its hundreds of organized clubs is responsible for a large part of the natural surface trail infrastructure that exists today on our federal, state and local public lands. The clubs and volunteers work closely with land managers on trail development, trail maintenance, and trail education for all users.

The proposed directives could jeopardize 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.

Mountain bikers appreciate the leap in technology presented by eMTBs is a unique management challenge. It is critical that land managers and local mountain bikers work together to determine where eMTBs are and are not appropriate on current and future mountain bike trails.

Thank you for being open to engage with the mountain bike community.

Sincerely,

Todd