

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2020 2:00:14 AM

First name: Ricky

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Quick background: I am 56 yrs old and ride >1500 miles per year on dirt mountain bike trails in many different areas in the northwest, and of course in my home, Hurricane Mesas. I do not own an E-MTB but have rented them multiple times, and have ridden around dozens of them; my home base is a center for retired folks, hence the e-bikes. Both my father and grandfather were career USFS employees; My dad retired as AO on the Payette, and my granddad retired as supervisor of the Pahsimeroi Forest, and both were strong advocates of "land of many uses".

I have never been ridden up on by an e-bike in an unsafe manner. Most who discuss a speed difference don't understand that a class 1 bike becomes a boat anchor above 20mph. Never has an e-bike caught me on a downhill. I climb at 3-5 mph, and an e-bike can do 12-15 mph. It has not caused a problem yet. Please ensure everyone understands a class 1 e-bike.

In documents 7700 and 7710, you refer to access to people who otherwise cannot see those areas. I agree 100% and have a great example. I was riding Church Rocks, and was being caught rapidly by someone. I pulled off, and so did he so we could chat. He was 78 years old and had just converted at 77 to an e-bike. I personally would gladly advocate, and pay for a use sticker, when that time comes. If you entrust this activity to local trail managers, or have grey policy, your exposure to violation of the Americans with Disabilities act will likely be very costly. Fix this up front.

In addition, you said e-bikes are not allowed on national scenic byways, and excuse my ignorance, but I question if you will legally exclude my 78 yr old friend on an e-bike from any trail open to bikes. I don't know if a scenic byway is a bike trail; that will apply to any non e-bike trails, though.

Lastly, you mention a study of trail damage. You will spend an infinite amount of cash trying to find additional damage caused by an e-bike over a pedal bike. By far, and with no comparison, the single most damaging entity to trails are horses. Today, October, I can still show you hoof prints left in single tracks on Church Rocks, Bearclaw Poppy, and Qual Creek. This was done in December of 2019. A simple calculation of pounds per square inch will explain. A slightly damp trail to me means Hero Dirt, but to a horse it means they will leave 12 inch deep holes. I have pictures.

Thank you for accepting my input. I apologize for any typos.

RB