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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity for the public 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.

Mountain biking is a large part of my life and my main form of recreation during the spring-fall. I personally would prefer that e-bikes not be allowed on the trails that they are currently restricted from. I believe that there are some areas that you need to work hard to get to and e-bikes make it too easy to get to these areas. I am also concerned that some trails will be more dangerous with e-bikes on them, both due to increased traffic and the increased potential for head on collisions. E-bikes make it easy to go fast up hill and would likely increase the risk of a collision with someone going downhill.

I appreciate the need to develop new regulations so that our public lands can be used by all, but I believe that the proposed directives will destroy the sport that I love so much. I know that a compromise must be made and the International Mountain Bicycling Association's recommendations appear to be a good start point. The proposed directives will 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 appreciate the leap in technology presented by eMTBs is a unique management challenge, but there needs to be a way to save mountain bikes trails for true mountain biking. These proposed directives rightfully plan separate management for bicycles and electric bicycles. 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 the willingness to engage with the mountain bike community.

Sam Joyce