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Comments: I appreciate the challenges the USFS faces in defining electric mountain bikes and what, if any usage, is appropriate on natural surface trails. Traditional mtn bikes currently vastly outnumber motorized bikes on trails. Obviously this balance will shift in the future as the cost of ownership for eBikes declines and the age demographics of trail riders increases. Case in point here is that I see MANY more riders in their 60's and 70's now that I ever saw twenty years ago. Not surprisingly, I see many more older riders on eBikes as well.

I oppose type 2 and 3 eBikes on natural trails in unilateral fashion. The use of these categories of machines are overkill for anybody using the argument of age or physical limitations in attempts to access otherwise inaccessible trails. Certainly type 1 eBikes provide any and all potentially needed assistance for 'access challenged' riders.

That leaves us with type-1 machines and how to manage their usage. My gut says there are some trails where their usage may be appropriate, and others where they are inappropriate. Trails that are of historic value or are potentially at risk of erosion or other environmental concerns resulting from overuse should not allow eBikes at all. Trails where increased usage may cause greater conflicts with other user groups should also not allow eBikes.

Lastly, it is critical that the USFS does NOT simply lump eBikes in with traditional mountain bikes when making further land use and trail usage decisions - it would be truly shameful if eBike usage of trails ultimately becomes a reason for closing trails to mountain bikes altogether.