

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2020 2:51:10 PM

First name: Raymond

Last name: Cotton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I wanted to give my response to the use of class 1 eMTBs on trails currently designated for mountain bike use. I have been mountain bikes for 25 years now and have seen the technology continue to increase, and it will continue to do so in the future. Several years ago, I was diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma and had a multi-year battle with it, undergoing two bone marrow transplants. The long-term results are lung and heart damage. I hung up my mountain bike for several years as I could no longer ride with friends. Then I purchased a class one e-bike, and now the trails have been open back up to me in areas they are allowed. I can now enjoy the sport again with friends. I strongly support trail access for Class 1 eMTBs and support shared use on trails as long as access is not lost or impeded for traditional mountain bikes. I do not feel they should be considered motorized vehicles. If you ride a class 1 e-bike, you do not have the same issues as with a motorized vehicle on trails, from safety to environmental impact is no difference between them and traditional mt. bike. In addition, they allow people like myself to access the outdoors with friends in ways that were not possible without them.