Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2020 2:50:56 PM First name: Drew Last name: Blair Organization:

Title:

Comments: In my opinion, a motor is a motor. I feel like, as a mountain biker, it has been somewhat a struggle, maybe a small struggle, to keep or gain access to public land. I am guessing this is not the situation in probably 90% or more of NF land where mountain biking abounds and is just a second nature to include mountain bikers. Where I live here in Harrisburg, IL which is home of the great Shawnee NF's SO, we have experienced some of the most EPIC mountain biking anywhere in the entire midwest section of the country and done so for about 34 years. My wife worked for the USFS in the same SO which is the Shawnee NF for all 34 years of her career and I have gotten to know lots of these fine folks trying their best to make our experiences no matter what the discipline, a wonderful and so unforgettable encounter with the forest. So with that said, I get it. The electric motor on an eBike is not the same as the motor in my old Toyota FJ40 Land Cruiser but again, it is still a motor. We also have seasonal MVUM map trails here which is where the motors should reside. The sport of mountain biking is called mountain biking for a reason. It is pedaling the wheeled apparatus and not using any type of motorized assistance to experience a true mountain biking encounter. Another issue with eBikes is the added weight of an eBike in comparison to an average conventional mountain bike, approximately 50 lbs v 25 lbs. I would be OK with say the class 1 eBike as long as there is not this added weight issue and there is no effect on funding of, building of, or access to conventional mountain bike trails. Thank you so much for letting us comment on this important issue and another huge THANK YOU goes out to the USFS everywhere for your attitude and commitment in offering up such great experiences in our forests.