

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2020 3:26:14 PM

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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity 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.

I agree with the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA)'s assertion that the mountain bike community is responsible for a large part of the natural surface trail infrastructure that exists today on our federal, state and local public lands. Hundreds of organized mountain bike clubs around the country manage thousands of volunteers who work closely with land managers on trail development, trail maintenance, and trail education for all users. Much of this work relies on funding sources specific to non-motorized trail projects.

The proposed directives could jeopardize this funding and increase user conflict if non-motorized trails were to be reclassified as motorized to allow for eMTBs. To avoid this unintended consequence and expand access to trails, I recommend that the final directive reconsider how to allow class 1 eMTBs on select non-motorized trails without eliminating 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 IMBA'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.

Mountain bikers understand and appreciate the leap in technology presented by eMTBs is a unique management challenge. These proposed directives rightfully plan separate management for bicycles and electric bicycles. In the interest of safety and conservation, 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, again, for your willingness to engage in a public discussion of this issue.