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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.

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. I am one of those volunteers, as are several other members of my family. Much of the work we do 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 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.

Mountain bikers understand that eMTBs present a novel and unique management challenge. These proposed directives rightfully plan separate management for bicycles and electric bicycles. As a rider of both traditional mountain bikes and Class 1 eMTBs, I have considerable interest in this determination. It is critical that land managers and local mountain bikers be able to work together to determine where Class 1 eMTBs are appropriate for use on current and future mountain bike trails.

Thank you for the willingness to engage with the mountain bike community.

Sincerely,

Joel Kennet

Bozeman, MT