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Comments: My perspective on eBikes on Forest Service trails comes from being a mountain biker, hiker, and motorcyclist as well as having a career in the bicycle industry. Regardless of level of assist, I support treating all ebikes as motor vehicles and continue to allow them only on trails and roads where motorized vehicles are allowed. Over the years I've seen the thrust of new vehicle technologies and capabilities increase erosion on trails as well as disturbing the peace on public lands. Industry groups have the motivation and money to push access for their own financial gain at the expense of quieter lower impact use of the forest.

The Forest Service is already challenged to enforce current policies on lands they manage. Creating more gray areas for ebike access would only make management more difficult. User groups are aggressive and human nature is such that many will push the boundaries and limits of what is allowed. As a motorcycle rider, I know how easy it is to be tempted to ride trails not open to motos. The motor, whether gas or electric powered, gives what you might call "super-human" powers that push the rider toward more aggressive approaches, whether that is poaching a non-open trail, or overtaking human powered trail users.

With tensions already existing between various non-motorized trail users, be they horse riders, hikers or conventional bikes, each with their own set of values, pace, and impacts on each other and the trail itself, why introduce yet another clearly higher impact class of trail user. Keep it simple: Motorized or not.

I wouldn't be surprised if an ebike makes it into my future, power is seductive and hard to resist. But it would be just another toy, not a necessity for enjoying a trail experience. When I ride my motorcycle on forest roads, I continue to find places where an eBikes would be appropriate and ideal. They should only be allowed access to roads and trails currently open to motorized vehicles. Please maintain non-motorized trails as such and maintain a low impact approach to their allowable use.

Thank you for all your efforts in managing our forests and the diverse demands put upon them.