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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity for the public 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.

As a member of the International Mountain Bike Association, I support their view on allowing class 1 eMTBs on select non-motorized trails while retaining a trail's non-motorized status. The proposed changes to FSM 7700 and 7710 could jeopardize trail funding sources specific to non-motorized trail projects or the loss of access for all non-motorized vehicles to trails that the mountain bike community has helped build or maintain on federal, state, and local public lands.

Much of this work delivered by the mountain bike community relies on funding sources specific to non-motorized trail projects.

The proposed directives could also 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.

Mountain bikers 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. 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 for the willingness to engage with the mountain bike community.