

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2020 6:45:22 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

I am a life-long cyclist. Having recently become disabled and no longer able to manage a non-electric bicycle the way I used to, I am very concerned about the possibility of e-bikes being classified as motor vehicles. I would hate to lose the ability to access NFS lands because I need the help of an electric motor on my BICYCLE to ride.

I note that Federal Law, 15 U.S.C. 2085(b) classifies Class 1 e-bikes as non-motorized vehicles and the Department of the Interior has accepted this definition for land users on all the various areas under their jurisdiction. The reason why Class 1 e-bikes were defined as non-motorized is because they function essentially as bicycles, but with a limited degree of assistance available ONLY when pedaling.

If the USFS chooses to classify Class 1 bicycles as motor vehicles this will conflict directly with existing Federal Law and the Department of the Interior determination, creating the potential for confusion as well as seriously limiting access to public lands under your jurisdiction for riders like me.

Class 1 e-bikes provide assistance only when pedaling, are speed limited, in a way that regular bicycles are not, to further ensure safety and present no more of a risk to other users than a non e-bike. I encourage you to classify Class 1 e-bikes as the bicycles they are and allow their use on trails designated for bicycles.

If nothing else, consider this: if Class 1 e-bikes are restricted to roads/trails designated for motor vehicles they will be competing with large, heavy, high speed users with the potential for accidents and serious injury commensurate with the difference in velocity and mass. On a trail approved for bicycles, Class 1 e-bikes will present no more of a hazard to other users than a regular bicycle does.

The regulation and control of our trails is vital for the safety and well-being of all the users and I appreciate that you are considering regulations. But please do not classify Class 1 e-bikes as motor vehicles.