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Comments: Class 2 electronic assistance mountain bikes (EMTB) are not and should not be categorized with other motorized vehicles. This is due to the fact that responsible EMTB use is the same as traditional mountain bike (MTB) use. The advantage of EMTB is generally in the climbing or flat aspect of the sport of mountain biking. The assistance they provide is of little or no use on downhill sections. Given that EMTBs merely provide assistance, rather than full propulsion, they only provide power in proportion to the amount of work the rider is already doing by pedaling. This is opposed to fully motorized vehicles either electric or internal combustion powered in which the rider's effort does not advance the motor's output, but rather the simple application of more

assistance, rather than full propulsion, they only provide power in proportion to the amount of work the rider is already doing by pedaling. This is opposed to fully motorized vehicles either electric or internal combustion powered in which the rider's effort does not advance the motor's output, but rather the simple application of more throttle does. This important distinction brings EMTB use more in line with traditional mountain bike use rather than other motorized trail sports. Thus, they should be categorized more closely to traditional mountain bikes and allowed on the same trails. EMTBs and MTBs do have a weight disparity, which does affect trail condition and maintenance. However, the weight of an EMTB is much closer to that of a traditional mountain bike than fully motorized trail vehicles. Additionally, the tires used on EMTBs are the same as those used on regular MTBs meaning the overall contact patch and tread pattern between the two creates a similar level of trail impact. This is compared to the much more aggressive and wider tire designs of fully motorized trail vehicles which have significantly higher trail impact. EMTBs also serve a different purpose than fully motorized vehicles: a purpose in line with traditional MTBs. EMTBs allow for riders to extend the distance they'd normally be able to ride in a given time frame or given fitness level as climbing takes less time and effort, they allow for riders to continue riding mountain bikes after sustaining a partial disability and losing strength (not mobility) in their legs as the effort of pedaling is reduced. Often overlooked, EMTBs aslo allow for older riders to continue riding when the demands of climbing too great, again because the effort of pedaling is reduced. Critically though, effort is still required on the part of the rider which is the same as traditional mountain biking and not in fully motorized trail sports. In short, EMTBs use makes the sport of mountain biking more inclusive. Attempts to categorize EMTBs in the same family as fully motorized trail vehicles is mistaken given EMTBs are more closely related to traditional MTBs in both use and trail impact. Additionally, sequestering EMTBs only to trails open to fully motorized trail users negates their inclusive impact on the sport of mountain bikings.