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Comments: Hello:

As a very active mountain bike rider in the Spokane, WA area I just got an email from our local trail building and advocacy group. I am concerned that USFS might not really put good rules in place for the emerging category of electric assisted mountain bikes. This type of bike raises a bunch of challenges to trail usage but the industry looks to be moving to a 3 class model that makes some sense (at least for now). As someone who is getting older I see a future where an e-bike might be a way to continue or expand my ability to get out on a bike so I have decided not to completely oppose e-bikes. Evergreen's ideas seem to make sense to me so I cut and pasted them below. Please feel free to call or email me to discuss. I understand there are different sides to every issue and compromise is almost always the best way forward!

Here is their proposal:

Adopt Class 1 e-bikes as non-motorized transportation.

Adopt Class 2 and 3 e-bikes as motorized transportation.

Allow Class 1 on non-motorized trails upon completion of an environmental review and public comment process, driven by local forests and/or districts.

Prohibit Class 2 and 3 on non-motorized trails.

Encourage programmatic NEPA review of eMTB impact on non-motorized trails, at the District, Forest or Regional level, to ease the review burden on a trail by trail basis.

Approach eMTB access by using a "Closed Unless Signed Open" basis.

Cheers, Stephen Garvin