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Comments: The approval of Class 1 EMTBs on all bicycle trails in this country should be allowed. The limit of speed is determined by this designation and there needs to be coordination between the manufacturers and all governing bodies of land use to visually certify on the bike that it complies with that standard. This could be a sticker or emblem applied by the builder that certifies Class 1 status and is quickly identifiable as such going forward.

Having ridden off road motorcycles for over a half century, mountain bikes for 15 years, and an EMTB for 3 months I feel obliged to share my views on them. The Class 1 Ebike is a bicycle in every respect with assist only and is not a motorcycle. My Trek Rail Ebike shares all componentry and operation with any other current non-Ebike and requires the exact same skillset to operate and is visually almost indistinguishable from its non-powered stablemates. It gives me a push to the top of the hill and leaves me a little less spent at the end of the day. My average speed is only slightly faster and I am no more reckless or any less considerate when I'm on it as compared to days I pedal only. As anyone who has actually studied and/or ridden one knows, there is no more impact to the environment from a Class 1 than a conventional MTB regarding soil disturbance or future erosion. Those are the result of well designed purpose built trail systems. The sound emitted by an Ebike undoubtedly produces fewer decibels than two people conversing as they walk on the trail. Speaking of environmental impact, mountain bikes of any type leave only a fractional footprint (pardon the pun) compared to the thousand pound plus non human powered trail sharers that leave thousands of dinner plate size divots several inches deep in certain conditions, after just one pass.

I have read that some believe virgin wilderness areas will be exposed to unwelcome traffic by Emtbs. Hopefully everyone understands Ebikes have a limited range and then must be plugged in to recharge, which is not required for human power only. So remote exploration is not something an Ebike is suited for without access to an AC outlet in the wild.

Ebike technology is here now and is only going to grow in the future. It is by far the fastest growing segment of all bike manufacturers business who have ventured into that end of the market. It only makes sense to accommodate those owners and not discriminate against them out of ignorance or obstinance as their numbers will continue to grow. Purists to mountain biking owe it to themselves to experience an Ebike by renting or borrowing one long enough to really form an educated opinion based on first hand knowledge instead of preconceived notions. I can assure you it will be eye opening. And keep in mind due, to age or injury every acoustic only MTBer will have to face the inevitable challenge at sometime of how to continue the activity they have a true lifelong passion for and don't want to give up.

I am thankful to have lived long enough to enjoy utilizing this technology and hopefully in the future won't be restricted where I can ride my Rail, it's the most fun I've ever had on two wheels and that covers a lot of ground.