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First name: Kelly

Last name: Ryan

Organization: San Juan Hut Systems, Inc

Title:

Comments: Hello,

This is Kelly from San Juan Hut Systems. My family has been operating mountain bike huts since 1987. We have 12 mountain bike huts that run between Telluride, CO and Moab, UT and Durango, CO and Moab Utah.

We support the Forrest Service decision to classify eBikes as motorized. They have an electric motor and as technological advances are made, these motors will only become more powerful. It makes sense to classify eBikes as motorized and that dirt bike trails and eBike trails could often be one and the same. Allowing eBikes on many of the trails that are currently unmotorized would change the character of the trail and create conflict. We love having trails we have to work on the ups as this keeps the downs less crowded and more rewording. Perhaps more importantly it helps maintain the tread on remote trails that are in high altitude or desert environments. The speed of bike traffic also changes significantly with eBike and non eBikes which creates additional user conflict. I also fear that as eBikes create increased conflict with hikers and equestrians which in the long run could push non-motorized bikes off of existing trails. I think that it is important for non eBike riders that eBikes be classified as what they are motorized. I think there is definitely a place for eBikes and I understand why people are drawn to them but it would be a mistake not to classify them as motorized.

Sincerely,

Kelly Ryan