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Title:

Comments: Examples of why ebikes and mountain bikes are different and therefore should have different policy surrounding them.

- 1) Ebikes have a motor. Mountain bikes do not. Therefore if motorized vehicles are allowed then ALL motorized vehicles should be allowed. Ebikes will only get more powerful, affordable, and popular. This isn't going away and a Pandora's box will be opened if ebikes are not treated as what they actually are. If you want to start classifying things you will only induce massive complications with enforcing rules and regulations. I'd like to know how someone is going to enforce that a class 1 is allowed but class 3 is not. You going to look up the user manual and technical specifications on each and every ebike? There's so many variations of ebikes already it will be an impossible task. It should also be noted that motorcycles/dirtbikes are now electric and becoming more popular. These should be allowed too if ebikes are allowed. People will break and bend the rules. So that more enforcement that Im pretty sure the USFS doesnt have money for.
- 2) As ebikes become more popular the distinction of trail difficulty disappears. I have encountered numerous beginner bikers on ebikes attempting to ride difficult trails because they now have a motor. This takes away from the novelty of being an experienced mountain biker. Further, there is a reason trails are rated a certain way and because of this not only will there be a dramatic increase in user related incidents with ebikes, but as they expand among all demographics, tax payer money will be used for S&R and trail repair.
- 3) If you reconsider your motorized rule you need to seriously reconsider your mechanized rule. The reason I bike is because I have severe trauma induced arthritis in my left ankle. I can and never will be able to visit wilderness areas because of this. Not only is this discrimination and a huge lack of inclusivity but the USFS needs to compare damage to the environment and how this occurs at the same or higher rate from horses and hikers to these "pristine and undisturbed" area.

Thank you.