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Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity for the public to engage on FSM 7700 and 7710, which would revise Forest Service directives to update and clarify guidance on management of electric bicycle (e-bike) use on National Forest System lands.

Contrary to perhaps a number of avid mountain bikers fearful of all classes of e-bikes being classified as motorized, and the subsequent issues resulting from this classification leading to allowance of all motorized users on trails deemed appropriate for ebikes, I support this new assignment of ebikes as motorized. Ebikes have a much larger impact on trails than regular pedal bikes do, as they are much heavier and require a lot more braking force to stop. Additionally, they tend to be ridden at higher speeds which also results in higher impact on trail systems. The fact that they have a motor makes their delineation as a "motorized" device fairly obvious.

Although I understand the fear people have of this new designation resulting in trails opening to all motorized units: motorcycles in addition to ebikes, and creating user conflicts, I believe that this will help bar ebikes from mixed use trails, and keep them limited to forest service roads, and other motorized designated trail systems, where their damaging effects won't tarnish the reputation of regular mountain bikes. I do not believe ebikes should be allowed on trails designated for mountain biking, hiking, and equestrian use. They are in fact motorized bikes, and should be designated as such and treated accordingly.

Thank you for classifying ebikes as what they are: motorized. I know how much money ebikes bring to bike manufacturers these days, and how strongly that influences the industry's push to allow ebikes on mixed use trails and wilderness areas, while trying to keep them classified as "non-motorized", but the fact is they are motorized, and they impact the trail systems differently than regular bikes.

Again, thank you for your efforts to properly categorize ebikes as motorized, as they should be. Hopefully the bike industry's efforts to further ebikes proliferation on all trails and wilderness areas will not bull over good common sense decision making.

-Paul