

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/25/2020 2:13:07 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a proponent of allowing electrical assisted Class I mountain bikes on all trails used by mountain bikes. I am 70 years old and have been riding the mtb trails here in Hood River, Oregon for the last 30 years and for the last two years on a Class I emtb. It's been great to be able to climb the long, steeper trails. The younger riders still pass me and have been very cordial. I have had no conflicts with other conventional riders. Hood River County has allowed Class I e-bikes on all its trails. After the first year the county held a forum to readdress the use of emtbs on its trail systems. Lots of people showed up especially the older riders to voice their concerns. After listening to everyone the County found that it was unanimous that there were no problems and decided to continue to allow Class I e-bikes on our trails. Technically, the small electrical motor does not power the bike up a hill but allows for easier pedaling up a hill. The pedaling powers the bike.

Key points in favor of emtbs:

1. Class I electrically assisted mountain bikes require pedalling. They do not have a throttle.
2. Class I emtbs are only electrically assisted up to 20 mph then the motor shuts off. It's rare that anyone rides that fast. Some of the younger, conventional riders go that fast on downhill runs.
3. Class I emtbs allow older and handicapped people to continue to enjoy mountain biking.
4. Class I emtbs do not damage the trails any more than conventional mtbs. They use the same components and tires as conventional mtbs. A lot of the maintenance of our trails are by people like me who are now riding e-bikes.

In summary, I would really like to see the Class I e-bikes allowed on Forest Service trails which would allow people like myself the opportunity get out on the trail systems. It would definitely give us a bit of positive news in these dreary covid times.