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First name: Stan

Last name: Crane

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been riding mountain bikes on USFS and BLM lands for more than 30 years. I appreciate the USFS providing access to the lands you manage for me to ride my bike. I am commenting on your proposed rules relating to ebike access to non-motorized trails. As written, your proposed rules give me concern about you reclassifying "non-motorized" trails to "motorized" so that ebikes may have access. I support Class 1 ebike access to non-motorized trails. I do not support access for Class 2 or Class 3 ebikes to non-motorized trails. If you approve re-classifying non-motorized trails to motorized trail status you may jeopardize funding available from various organizations for use on currently designated non-motorized trails. Our local USFS mountain bike trails depend on access to these grants to perform maintenance and new trail construction. I suggest USFS follow the guidance of the BLM and create an exception or special designation for Class 1 ebikes giving Class 1 ebikes access to non-motorized trails while retaining the trail designation as non-motorized. This would preserve funding stream options for non-motorized trails. Another option would be to use the definition of "motorized vehicle" as defined in 36 CFR 261.2 "Motor vehicle means any vehicle which is self-propelled...". Using this CFR definition of motor vehicle would not apply to Class 1 or Class 3 ebikes. It would apply to Class 2 ebikes. Further, you could prohibit access to non-motorized trails for any ebike that would assist to a speed greater than 20 mph. This provision would then apply to Class 3 ebikes. Using this CFR definition would simplify your rule and prevent unintended consequences.

There is a large and growing population of mountain bike riders that are getting older. They want to remain active in their senior years. Many want to continue to ride their favorite USFS trails but may find themselves no longer physically able to ride as long or as hard as they once did. They also want continue riding with younger friends and family. Because of the physical decline that comes with aging they find themselves no longer able to keep up with these younger riders. Class 1 ebikes provide the opportunity to continue enriching their lives with friends and family while enjoying the wonderful lands managed by the USFS. Please allow Class 1 ebikes on USFS non-motorized trails while keeping these trails classified as non-motorized.