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Comments: To keep things as simple as possible I suggest that anyone who is going to be involved in the decision making process regarding continuing to allow pedal assist class 1 eMTB access to all the trails that typically human powered only bikes are allowed to access...JUST RIDE ONE! You'll "get it" immediately. There is literally no difference regarding trail impact. They are a little heavier but barely heavier than the heaviest downhill bikes. eMTBs open up the world of mountain biking to a whole new segment of the population, a population that I think we can all agree in general needs more exercise. In opening up the "great outdoors" to a larger segment of the population I would posit that an unintended but positive side effect might even be heightened awareness and by proxy, interest in keeping our forests and public lands preserved and protected for current and future generations.

Spend the money on something really meaningful. Don't waste it on a series of impact studies to settle an issue that would be settled in 10 minutes just riding one of these bikes.