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Organization:

Title:

Comments: E-bikes are one of the largest growing segments of the biking industry and they are opening recreational opportunities for many users, who for a variety of reasons, would otherwise not use a bicycle. In this capacity, I am a big supporter of e-bikes on appropriate terrain, despite not using one on forest service or public lands myself.

I am an avid mountain and gravel cyclist and live in an area littered with single track trails and dirt roads that span public and private lands. For the past 2-3 summers our trails and roads have seen a large increase in utilization and traffic. Of course, conflict has followed the increased use.

I am not in favor of allowing any type of e-bike on single track trails that are not currently designated as motorized. I find there is no compelling argument that even class 1 e-bikes aren't motorized. It may not be a combustion motor and it may only operate with pedal assist, but it is motorized none-the-less. This is a very black and white issue for me, much like my human-powered, mechanized bike isn't allowed in Wilderness (a separate issue altogether, with which I also disagree).

I have personally had numerous encounters with e-bike users coming up on myself and my kids with far too much speed and far too little etiquette. I find that as a group, they are not good stewards of the land, they do not understand trail rules, nor do they follow best-practices for trail preservation. I have also had to help "rescue" e-bike users who find themselves on trails and in situations they are physically incapable of navigating. The power of the motor allows them to easily over-reach their abilities. I know these are broad strokes of criticism, but I strongly believe that class 1 e-bikes should stay on motorized trails and stay off roads and trails that aren't designated as such.

Lastly, class 2 and 3 e-bikes should never be considered for single track trail/non-motorized trail access. I think this is self-evident as they are clearly motorized/throttle bikes and should be classified along-side motorcycles.