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First name: Jonathan

Last name: Karpoff

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am 63 years old and have been a recreational mountain bike rider for decades. This past year I started also riding an electric assist mountain bike. I do not ride motorized bikes, but I live in a rural community and am friendly with many people who do. I think I know something about how each of these types of vehicles is used, the culture of each type of riding, and how each affects trails and trail users.

In brief, Type 1 e-assist mountain bikes are very close in riding style, culture of ethics, and impact on trails to regular (acoustic) mountain bikes. E-assist mountain bikes are very different from motorized bikes. The weight, speed, noise, and applied torque of a Type 1 e-assist mountain bike is close to that for acoustic bikes, both of which are substantially lower than for motorized bikes.

An additional consideration is that most e-assist mountain bike riders are, like myself, older and slower than the median acoustic bike rider. We are going slower and doing little trail damage, even with the e-assist on uphill.

I urge you to develop regulations that treat Type 1 e-assist mountain bikes as similar to regular acoustic mountain bikes, and not to lump them in with motorized bikes.