

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/25/2020 9:39:09 PM

First name: Kermit

Last name: Johansson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important policy that is far reaching and will be growing in issues and exceptions as electrically motorized modes continue to grow in ability and complexity. My comments are as an interested citizen, although I may later deal with these issues again as I also work with the San Joaquin River Trail on the Sierra National Forest which does deal with this issues currently.

My comments:

1. You have defined the only issue of change as e-Bikes - classes 1, 2, 3. . However, we are in a very fast moving period of time when next arrives a motorized surfboard or a hover skateboard also wanting to use the same trail. Your direction in 7715.03 Policy should probably widen your scope of consideration by expressing interest in all e-motorized recreation vehicles that will contrast the speed and character of human pedestrian or horseback travel. Both humans and horses can probably be expected to remain constant as e-motorized changes occur constantly. The Question will be, which will be in the minority.

2. Section 7715.5 is your travel management policy which makes a good attempt to control activities based on the character of the path/width/surface which you currently use - and that is a good attempt. And although, travel management is the land of Forest Service Engineers, they leave out other considerations of "is this an activity we want in this area regardless of the trail characteristics. Your recreation areas at one time use the ROS (Recreation Opportunity Spectrum) to designate appropriate activities and it seems that is a better basis to start with rather than the surface character of a built trail. You only consider 3 Classes of e-Bike rather than if they are wanted in certain areas - Wilderness should not be the only other consideration that you manage for. Uses, not the number of kW's or pedals might be a better base to start from.

Suggest you go back and add recreation concerns to determine appropriateness of vehicles in certain areas.

Kermit Johansson