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First name: Doon

Last name: Hinderyckx

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in support of allowing class 1 ebikes on National Forest trails that allow and in some cases have been built for bicycle use.

We are not talking about wilderness here. Designated wilderness areas are protected and restricted from this kind of use already.

We are talking about our public lands that are managed to promote not only forest health but recreational opportunities that serve to stimulate personal health AND economic health of the communities that host these forest acres. Our small town has nearly 40% of the lands within its boundaries owned by national and state forest, severely limiting the tax base available to service the needs of our rural population.

In this town our single largest asset is the beauty and allure of the surrounding natural environment. Inviting people to explore these public trails by foot, bike, ski, wheelchair, or ebike serves to justify the existence of the national forest system as a resource for all to pursue spiritual, emotional, and physical health by breathing, sweating, and working our bodies to find ourselves, being in the woods.

Ebikes will offer this recharging experience to a wider audience leading to a healthier and happier population.