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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm mystified that my Class One eMountainBike (eMTB) is a "motorized vehicle" on "natural" surfaces, but not on "improved" surfaces. MTB trails, while not usually layered with gravel, are still shaped to "improve" their rideability.

I've been mountain biking recreationally for 30+ years, the past 5 of which have been on Class One, low-power, electric assisted mountain BICYCLES. When I first started, I asked a local ranger if eMTBs were allowed on trails (we'd met on a road), and he responded, "No motorized vehicles on park trails!"

I showed him that, in 1992, Congress enacted a FEDERAL LAW stating that electric bikes with fully functional pedals, motors under 750W, and governed at 20 mph were bicycles (NOT motor vehicles). He then looked at my bike and said, "It really LOOKS like a bicycle... as long as I don't get any complaints, RIDE ON!"

5+ years and several thousand trail miles later (including a demo ride for him and another state official), he has not received such a complaint. The same is true in many US public trail systems that treat eMTBs like MTBS - there are MINIMAL trail user conflicts - no more so than "usual."

Please declare Class One eMTBs as non-motorized vehicles on Forest Service land. Thank you!