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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity for the public to engage on FSM 7700 and 7710, which would revise Forest Service directives to update and clarify guidance on management of electric bicycle (e-bike) use on National Forest System lands.

The mountain bike community is responsible for a large part of the natural surface trail infrastructure that exists today on our federal, state and local public lands. Hundreds of organized mountain bike clubs around the country manage thousands of volunteers who work closely with land managers on trail development, trail maintenance, and trail education for all users.

Mountain bikers appreciate the leap in technology presented by eMTBs. These proposed directives rightfully plan separate management for bicycles and electric bicycles. It is critical that land managers and local mountain bikers work together to determine where eMTBs are allowed.

I am extremely happy to own a pedal assist eMTB. It allows me to ride trails that I used to ride when I was younger and could climb much better. I am always very considerate when passing hikers and other bikers and I don't believe my eMTB negatively impacts the trails I ride. I am very unhappy to see trails that are open to MTBs but closed to eMTBs. I don't understand the reasoning behind this. I sincerely hope to see more great forest trails open to eMTBs in the future especially now that I am retired and able to ride more.

Sincerely,

David Baga