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Title:

Comments: I am writing in support of allowing e-bikes in the National Forest.

Riding has been one of the greatest pleasures of my adult life, especially group riding. I have been riding mountain bikes in the very hilly terrain of central VT for 20 years. After turning fifty, needless to say, riding this mountainous terrain became a bit more challenging. I avoided riding as often because of old injuries, having less stamina, and not enough time to go adventuring or the time to recover in my ever increasing busy schedule.

E-bikes have given me a second life in the sport. Thanks to e-bikes I continue to enjoy the camaraderie of this multi-aged group of riders, who like me, assemble in the woods to enjoy the outdoors, each other and the beauty of the trails we helped build and enjoy maintaining for future generations of riders and hikers. E-bikes are superb for older riders who want to keep riding the trails they know and love, safely and for years to come.

It should be said that e-bikes are safer because you can maintain the momentum you need to handle tricky terrain without over-exerting yourself as you pedal up mountain, over log, rock or root. The power available is only available if you pedal and the momentum necessary for getting over awkward obstacles.

An e-bike's impact on the trails is the same as a regular bike and puts far less use to the trail than four-wheelers, horse-riders or people hiking on muddy days. All who love to be in nature should have access to the designated, well-maintained trails in our public lands.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to contribute to the debate.