

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2020 1:19:06 AM

First name: Thomas

Last name: Kirsten

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Increase in use of EBikes on trails will increase with the prevalence of EBikes in the general public. On already crowded trails the risk of conflict will increase with the increase in the use of EBikes. Motor vehicles and human powered vehicles are better separated with the differences in speed of the vehicles. (7715.5.4.b).

EBikes should be kept to roads and trails designated for motor vehicles. It is inappropriate and dangerous to allow high speed EBike vehicles on trails that are shared by walkers, runners, equestrians, and human powered bicycles. The speeds described in FSM 7705 are not compatible with typical speeds of human powered bicycles and other non-motorized uses, especially in the uphill direction. If the goal is to accommodate greater access to the forest trails then these speeds should be reduced. It may be that industry does not produce lower speed EBikes but, as with clean burning snowmobiles, if there is a mandate and enough interest, industry will fill the need. (7715.5.4.b).

If EBike use is not allowed on trails designated for only non-motorized travel, exceptions should be considered for disabled individuals utilizing the EBike as a method of access to our National Forest public lands. It may be that areas on National Forest under Special Use Agreements (i.e. ski areas) can allow for the use of EBike within the Special Use Area.

It does seem a difficult enforcement problem but for the safety and enjoyment of the non-motorized users EBikes should be limited to roads and trails designated for motor vehicles.