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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on allowing ebikes on our public trails. I have been an active mountain biker in the Cooper Landing area since I was 19 years old, so over 30 years. I have owned numerous bikes including road, mountain, and fat bikes. I raised my children to enjoy biking as well and all my children started their mt biking on either Crescent or Resurrection trails. Both my sons played collegiate sports thanks in part to their active lives encouraged by amazing trails to play on in our own backyard. One son has completed the kenai epic 250 twice before he turned 18 and went on to be a Div I athlete. I'm saying all this to emphasize that we have heavily used the Kenai Peninsula trails as both bikers and hikers as quality family time and to stay healthy. However, in the past 3 years I have developed autoimmune health issues. Through no fault of my own, I went from an athlete to where I struggled to get out of bed - much less attempt to enjoy activities that used to be a huge part of my life. I have worked hard to improve my issues, but I still have struggles that prevent me from hard exertion without significant ramifications. I'm lucky that my health issue is covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act and I am allowed to have equipment modifications. But not everyone is currently allowed to do that on our public trails. I can't stress enough to you how much being able to be out again on the trails I have grown up using and enjoying has encouraged my continued progress towards my old levels of health. The Ebike has given me the ability to be outdoors without causing long term flare ups again. I fully believe our trails should be open for everyone who desires to use them. If ebikes allow older users or people like myself to continue being active and healthy, then that should always be encouraged. No one should have to stop using trails they have used most of their lives as they age due to outdated rules. Public lands out of state have been opened recently to allow these bikes. I believe the technology has improved and ebikes are on the same playing field as people perceived the full suspensions bikes when they were new technology. Ebikes do not damage the trails nor cause noise pollution. I do not believe ebikes would endanger anyone nor any public land. Public trails should not be reserved only for elite athletes, they should be accessible and inclusive to all Alaskans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.