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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Our town of Nelson BC is an original Downhill style mountain bike terrain and trails location. An abundance of vehicle (pick-up trucks) shuttling was always the only way to ride. We now have 2 or 3 designated up / down trails in the popular zones, but they are Steep and long for all except elite conditioned athletes. E-assist bikes have nearly eliminated all the shuttling traffic. We ride more, more folks that normally don't have time to designate a 1/2 to a full day of shuttling vehicles are now riding 4 days a week again. The director of crown land for our region is/ was a traditional mtb rider and wanted to see if an E-assist mtb had a negative affect on the trail systems that are on said public property. He took one out for a ride. He found nothing abnormal....felt like his old Downhill mountain bike from 10 years ago, only better. He bought an emtb for himself that week. We have no exclusions for any of the built and maintained trails in our area for e-assist mountain bikes.

The trail systems that are partially or completely funded by tax dollars have been exclusive to elite riders / athletes since their inception. Many of our climb trails require a level of cardio fitness out of touch for most that would like to ride, especially recreational level mountain bikers. We now see a new demographic of older (50+yr) riders that can enjoy and use the trail system. Our Local bike shops are BOOMING! More than 50% of new Mountain bike sales here are E assist bikes!! We have seen no additional or abnormal wear and tear on the trails that is related solely to E-assist bikes. On the contrary, the slightly heavier bikes have better traction climbing. Older Mountain bikes with 26" diameter wheels are harder on the ground surface than modern E-assist Mountain bikes that have 27.5" or mostly 29" diameter wheels. If weight is an argument, then no one over 220lbs allowed on the trails. And no one that does not have a level of cardiovascular conditioning shy of elite athletes either. These trails are not private training grounds for elite only. If so, then take 1/2 their funding to create identical style trails for e assist bikes only. I believe the elite mountain bikers would rather see e-bikes share the trails than have 1/2 their funding and 1/2 their terrain taken away. This is all akin to snowboarders fighting to be able to ride at "ski" resorts in the late 1980's. Snowboarding saved the ski industry. E-assist bikes are saving cycling.