

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2020 4:52:23 PM

First name: William

Last name: Hayes

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The following comment pertains to 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. 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. Personally I am a Wayne National Forrest Volunteer with a chain saw certification. I spend a lot of time working on the trails in our area.

Many of the funding sources the Trails in the Wayne depend on are specific to non-motorized trail projects. The proposed directives could jeopardize this funding. These trails are crucial for economic development in our impoverished region. We simply can't afford to loose this money. I implore you to craft the final directive to only allow class 1 eMBTs on select non-motorized trails while retaining a trail's non-motorized status, similar to the recent Department of Interior final rule. As a Veteran I also would ask that an exemption be granted to disabled Vets for class 2 eMBTs with the stipulation that this does not change the status of a non-motorized trail. We owe that to the men and women who came home missing a leg.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on this matter.