

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2020 6:16:34 PM

First name: Scott

Last name: McDonald

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I would like to comment on FSM 7700 and 7710. I am 66 years old and bought an electric mountain bike (eMTB) 3 years ago after hernia surgery. I have been active in mountain biking for 30 years, including being a coach for our local High School mountain bike team for the past 10 years. Riding in National Forest System lands is an important option for my health. And as I age, e-bikes allow me to keep riding.

The proposed directives could jeopardize funding and increase user conflict if non-motorized trails were to become reclassified as motorized to allow for eMTBs. Instead, the final directive must reconsider how to allow class 1 eMTBs on select non-motorized trails while retaining a trail's non-motorized status, similar to the recent Department of Interior final rule. The final directive can be further improved by following the International Mountain Bicycling Association's management recommendations: managing the three classes of e-bikes separately from one another, and prohibiting class 2 and class 3 eMTBs on natural surface, non-motorized trails.

As a mountain bike rider, coach and supporter of multi-use trails, I understand and support the need to manage trail access. And as an eMTB rider for the past there years, I strongly believe Class 1 eMTBs should be in the same category as regular bikes, not motor bikes.

Please support Class 1 eMTBs for general use on all National Forest lands.

Thank you for listening and engaging the mountain bike community.