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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity for the public to engage on 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.

Anything other than class-1 electric bikes should not be allowed on any shared mountain trails. They present a clear danger to other trail riders, hikers and horse riders.

As a member of the eMTB community and the aging fit population It would be a huge blow to completely disallow class-1 ebikes on Federal, State and local trails. Our growing numbers as we age depend on "any means possible" to maintain our fitness, health and quality of life. You can't stop a passionate mountain biker from riding, injuries or an aging body that is way past prime will find a way and thanks to an industry that understands we now have a vehicle to keep us enjoying nature our way, on two wheels.

If there is solid proof that ebike riders are causing damage to our trail systems or that we are causing injuries to other riders over and above non E bikers then that would be a true cause for concern and a ban on all ebikes would be an appropriate plan of action. I have yet to read or hear of ebikers causing such havoc. The old saying always rings true "A few ruin in for the whole" and whether it is electric or non-electric mountain bikers there will be knuckle heads out on the trails.

I would like to recommend that if each class-1 ebike rider were to register their bikes and display a tag prominently on their bike it may be possible to track any wrong doing caused by that rider. The participation of the local bike shops for registration and IMBA for volunteer patrols could help to make this happen.

Give us a chance, give us at least a trial period to prove that the class-1 mountain bike is not a menace to the trails or the people that share them.

Thank you for the willingness to engage with the mountain bike community.

Sincerely,

AZ, San Diego