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Comments: I am writing in regards to the conversation of Ebikes and the classification of use in recreation areas that have long been permitted for horse, foot and non motorized bicycles to date.
My stance here is that we are now evolving to create mechanisms that change the design of a classic mtn bike, that based on the rider and their capabilities only allows them to go a certain distance and on certain terrain based on their experience level, and ability.
E bikes are a motorized vehicle. Just because there are levels of power that can be obtained or classified as, they all still allow an individual to go farther, faster and beyond their human powered capabilities.
what does one person do when they ride an Ebike into to the forest, farther than they are normally capable, and the battery dies? They are now out and exposed to a place that they cant get themselves out of.
With our current trail systems being overrun already by a large increase of users on human powered bikes, adding in a whole extra demographic will certainly bring over use to the trail systems, requiring our national forests, blm and public lands to have to provide additional maintenance which is already lacking due to funding and resources.
Another concern is the difference in speeds both up and downhill. When a rider is coming down on a bike that can create hundreds of more watts than a person is normally capable of creating, we now expose each person from head on collisions, on singletrack trails, where there is now where to divert their path.
My vision is that E bikes can be used as tools to recreate on 2 track trail systems, private land, and with proper OHV lights, can transport people for less gas powered vehicles on roads.
These are only going to open up the gray area of what is considered a motorized and non motorized vehicle which we don't allow dirt bikes/motorized vehicles on our trails that are designated for "Human Powered" vehicles, including our legs for walking as well as pedalling a bike. When our legs say it's time to be done, we turn around and head home. When a battery keeps pushing the boundary, we will putting lives in danger and resources at risk. Just because we have made these and tailored them to "recreational" enthusiasts, I don't feel they are the right vehicle for use on our singletrack trail systems.
Thank you for the consideration to keep singletrack dedicated for those that want to work for their summits!