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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings,

While I am the eBike Representative to the Motorized Trails Committee of Grand County, UT., I make this comment as a private citizen. Some simple facts point conclusively to the requirement of treating eBikes/riders just as all other bikes are treated on Forrest Service land:

1. While eBike weight is now as low as 35 pounds, even heavier eBikes place no more wear or strain on soils and rocks due to their larger tire widths. Pressure per square millimeter is the same with the 2.6" and larger tires that eBike are almost always equipped with as it is with the 2.3" tires equipping most regular bikes.
2. A trained cyclist can produce 1400+ watts in a sprint and around 240 watts continuously on a long climb. The newest eBikes for mountain riding are tending towards the 250 peak watt capacity for sport riding and 500-750 peak watts for touring with a load. The fact that more riders can clear an obstacle without tire spin actually means less trail wear.
3. An eBike is no faster on a downhill run than any regular bicycle. Rider skill is the determinate factor.
4. Sales statistics show that the majority of new eBike purchasers are older and/or injured riders who simply want to continue to enjoy the back country. Reckless behavior is extremely rare with eBike riders as are injuries and other damage.

I sincerely hope that you will not be persuaded by hysterical claims of phantom damage and "slippery slope" slides into all types of motorized intrusions. eBikes merely assist human beings in their desire to commune with Nature in a quiet and unobtrusive manner. However, should you determine that some additional qualifications be applied at the manufacturing or service/rental level I have experience and contacts with both and would be honored to assist in any way possible.

Thank you for your consideration of my comment.