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First name: Mark Last name: Brooks Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, and thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important topic. Concerning WNC, I strongly oppose the allowance of electric motor bicycles on MOST trails in the region. My concerns are as follows; overuse/overcrowding. This is already a huge issue in Western North Carolina on almost all of our trail systems. It's the primary issue our trails face. Ebikes will only add to the problem, and bring a whole bag of issues with them. For example, user conflicts. The high speeds, especially climbing speeds create closing speeds like none of us have seen before, outside of gas powered motor. These increased closing speeds will cause issues with all other users. Site lines are a challenge, add the increased speed of an ebike, and it's a recipe for disaster. Another issue is inexperienced ebike getting in way over their heads, getting in trouble, deep in the forest, and straining already taxed rescue organizations. Ebikes are complicated machines, with the potential for mechanical breakdowns, that do not allow a rider to walk out. They will bring inexperienced riders to locations that they are grossly unprepared to handle. Injuries, possibly serious, to follow. Policing is the subject of my final comment. Who's gonna determine if an ebike is a class one? How? You can't tell by looking at them. The forest service is overworked as it is, I can't imagine the huge burden of policing a user group, one known to break the rules, is a positive. Thank you for your time.