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Organization: Back Country Horsemen - Kansas

Title: Secretary - Saddle Ridge Chapter

Comments: Dear Sir/Madam

Commenting on this directive change:

FSM 7700 - Travel Management

7702 - Objectives

Adds Paragraph 8: 'To consider emerging technologies (such as e-bikes) that are changing the way people access and recreate on NFS lands. For example, where suitable for use, e-bikes may provide new opportunities for individuals who might otherwise be prevented from experiencing an NFS trail without assistance from an electrical motor.'

Comment: This is way too broad and leaves the interpretation of emerging technologies as a moving target in the future. This opens the door to anything electrical with wheels (go-carts, mobility chairs, hover boards, etc), which could now bypass the definition of motorized. Why would we want to do this? The massive torque of electric vehicles means faster erosion of trails even when dry, collisions with wild life and possible attack from threatened animals, danger to other hikers due to the power/speed/lack of noise, spooking and collision danger to outfitters with pack strings and other equestrians.

As for making the trails more accessible, the absolute last thing that needs to happen is for the handicapped or physically incapable e-bike rider to be stuck in the middle of a wilderness trail with a dead battery. One can only imagine the consequences.

E-bikes are already allowed on motorized trails and should be confined to such trails. Please leave the non-motorized trails to hikers, mountain bikes and equestrians.

Thanks

Mary Licata