

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/27/2020 1:34:56 AM

First name: David

Last name: Rossi

Organization:

Title:

Comments: FSM 7700 and 7710 E-bikes #ORMS-2619

The US Forest Service should not support the conversion of non-motorized trails to ebike use. Ebikes are motorized. Below are my points for your consideration:

1. Non-motorized Trails Are Designed for Motorized Use

In Breckenridge, Colorado, the current trail system network was largely developed during the Golden Horseshoe Travel Management Plan creation, in which the USFS participated, along with motorized users. I was on this committee as well with members of the Dillon Ranger District. Our trails were designed for uses specific to each group, based on the type of user and equipment.

2. Ebikes Enjoy Tremendous Dirt Trail Access Already

Additionally, I do not believe that by classifying ebikes as motorized it forecloses the experience or minimizes access experiences for those who make legitimate claims about inclusion, and the industry that advances this opinion as an emotional one when it has more to do with profits. This is evidenced right here in Summit: There are hundreds of motorized trails that ebikes will have access to right here in Summit County alone. Designed in cooperation between non-motorized users and motorized users during the development of the Golden Horseshoe Travel Management Plan, as one example.

3. Ebikes Erode Dirt Trails More Quickly Than Non-Motorized Users

Ebikes add tremendous torque not found in non-motorized uses. Breckenridge's trails are already experiencing crowding and degradation beyond what can be repaired or maintained in one season. This user will have a greater ability to do more damage to our already soft soils in much shorter order.

4. Ebikes Will Add More Conflict Among Users

Motorized trails primarily are used by motorized equipment. Non-motorized trails are used by hikers, non-motorized bikes, downhill bikes, endure bikes, cross-country bikes, trail runners, and dog walkers. Adding another class of equipment that is easily rented by inexperienced riders and visitors will cause further challenges understanding etiquette and rights of way.

5. Ebikes Will Require More Oversight and Regulation Nobody Has Staff to Perform

Whether it's to resolve user conflict, repair additional damage caused by ebikes, minimize crowds, or ensure only Class 1 bikes are being used or rented out by retailers. There is not enough manpower, downstream rules, wayfinding, interest by the industry, to prevent major problems.

6. Uphill Access on Ebikes Is One Thing. What About Down?

Inexperienced bikers on our trails may get to the top quickly, but they will find themselves in a harrowing situation on the downhill. An ebike does not take you downhill with any less danger than a non-motorized bike.

7. Ebikes on Trails Are Opposed by Municipal Officials

The Town of Breckenridge, where I have actively served my community as a resident and trail runner, biker for 20 years, has been steadfast in their opposition to the use of ebikes on their trail system. I believe it is for good reason, and local land managers know best. Opening this Pandora's box will be regretted immediately.

Leave them as motorized. Thank you for your consideration

