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Comments: The United States Forest Service (USFS) has navigated the complexities of creating an electric mountain bike (e-bike or eMTB) rule well and should retain the following directives: the distinction of class 1, class 2, and class 3 eMTBs; the proposed management of eMTBs as a new, separate category; and requiring local public process before permitting eMTB access to trails, particularly through National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Travel Management Rules.i

However, the proposed directive continues to categorize all eMTBs as motorized and could eventually lead non-motorized trails to be reclassified as motorized, significantly changing user group access and creating funding complications. To avoid this reclassification and change of use, the USFS should align their policy with the final rule that the Bureau of Land Management recently proposed and create an exemption to allow class 1 eMTBs on non-motorized trails.