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Organization:

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Comments: We support the Forest Service's efforts to issue new regulations to adapt to changing technologies and recreation patterns, manage electric bicycles in a clear and consistent way both internally and in coordination with fellow agencies, and allow for the use and enjoyment of electric bicycles for Americans seeking connection to natural experiences nationwide.

Specifically and in alignment with People for Bikes, we support the distinction of the three classes of electric bicycles in the proposed rule in order to allow for discrete regulation of different classes of e-bikes on recreational trails; regulate critical issues around e-bike speed, wattage, and motor engagement; and create consistency with the three main forms of product that are currently on the marketplace and within the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission definition of an electric bicycle. We are also in agreement with the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) in support of class 1 electric bicycles having access to singletrack trails.

We've seen eBikes open up cycling to more diverse audiences and take cars off the road. While we don't personally ride electric mountain bikes, we feel the assist of an eBike democratizes mountain biking by making it accessible to more people and by bringing in new riders. We feel privileged to have become part of the mountain bike community and recognize that we all carry a responsibility. This legislation would greatly increase the number of places to ride and open of the beauty of bike rides surrounded by nature to more people.

We would be happy to discuss this matter further and are available as a resource for anything needed by the department. Thank you for your consideration.