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First name: Heide

Last name: Andersen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my support of the USFS contemplating and developing a deliberate policy with respect to electric assist mountain bikes. I think taking a forward-looking but cautious approach to this use is appreciated. I would support the designation of some trails for Class 1 ebike use for those that might not be able to experience trails on bikes otherwise, whether it is because of age, disabilities, etc. At the same time, I would like to protect the non-motorized trail systems on the USFS in general from becoming available to electric assist mountain bikes. There is already a huge maintenance backlog and allowing otherwise able-bodied riders to be able to ride more difficult or longer trails than they could otherwise with electric assistance will change the condition and character of so many of our beloved trails.

As someone who has been a trail user, manager, and designer for my adult life, I understand how difficult this issue is. I think it is well worth being very proactive as an agency and erring on the side of being conservative at this time.