

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/27/2020 3:56:32 AM

First name: Jim

Last name: Collins

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments to your proposed new rules 7700 & 7710. As an e bike class 1 (Pedal assist) mountain biker, it's important to me that we are careful in how we manage electric-assist mountain bikes on trails to protect the user experience of those recreating on non-motorized USFS trails.

I'm extremely concerned if the intent is to treat class 1 e-mountain bikes as motorized vehicles. My experience is there is little if any difference in wear and tear on the trails versus a standard mountain bike. There is no comparison to the amount of wear and tear from motorcycles, ATV or similar vehicles.

I also ride a class 3 e-bike as a substitute to driving a car. Not all class 3 are the same and some newer models having significantly lower power assist motors. Mine has 250 watt so motor size for class 2 or 3 should also be a consideration. Having said that I would not ride it on most single track mountain bike trails.

I suggest the following for consideration.

Adopt Class 1 e-bikes as non-motorized transportation and allow on all trails that mountain bikes are currently permitted.

Adopt Class 2 and 3 e-bikes as motorized transportation. (distinguishing motor size is probably too complicated consideration, however lower power bikes would have minimal effect on trails and could be considered non-motorized vehicle).

Thank you for your consideration of this matter