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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support the idea of providing increase opportunities for people with functional limitations to enjoy the natural beauty of our Deschutes National Forest.

With that said I am concerned about the ramifications of allowing e-bikes to access single track trails in such a large geographical area. My concern stems from personal experience in which over my three decades of mountain bike riding I have found myself in situations where I have had mechanical difficulties that required I hiked with my bike for miles to get back to safety. I always carry basic repair materials and have been able to jerry rig my bike to limp home at times. Other times, there was no alternative available other than to push sometimes for several miles.

My request is if this initiative moves forward there is consideration given to how the forest service and local EMS will respond when faced with limited mobility folks, broken down in the woods with possibly no cell service who are unable to navigate to safety on their own.

I have had to render aid to perfectly able body folks with mechanical issues or crashes over the years. Part of what I appreciate about the mountain biking culture is that other riders are usually pro active in offering help when they see another rider in need.

Is it reasonable to increase the population of people who without the assistance of a motor would otherwise not be able to ride on these remote trails?

If e-bikes are to be allowed on historically designated non motorized trails, please consider how those who are unable to ride a bicycle under their own power are going to be able to navigate pushing an e bike that weighs exponentially more than a conventional bike and themselves back to safety when they are potentially miles away from help.

Thank you.