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Comments: I am in full support of doing the study and assessment. I suspect you will find similar findings to other National Forests, such as the Tahoe National Forest.

Class 1 e-bikes allow for equitable access to the natural environment for those getting older, and those that are either disabled or partially disabled due to chronic illness (such as long covid).

In all my decades of riding experience (5+) on national forest, state park and public lands, I have never found Class 1 e-bikes to be more damaging to trails above and beyond that of any other manually powered bicycle. Nor are they any faster than a manual bike with the exception of very steep terrain going up hill. I have also never encountered a rider that was careless with their operation, in fact I have found them to be even more respectful of horses and pedestrians.

My primary reason for supporting them however is knowing that my father, who is 81 years of age, who has been racing mountain bikes for decades, can still enjoy his sport with a Class 1 e-bike. Without that additional assistance, his activity becomes limited. And to not be able to share the national forests with him right now is heartbreaking.