

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/2/2024 4:59:19 PM

First name: Thomas

Last name: Leach

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please allow this change to the Deschutes National Forest trails system in Central Oregon.

I am a 78 year-old living within 1/2 mile of the Phil's Trail complex and have been a mountain biker for 35 years. My major form of recreation is riding single track trails in the forest. However, my physical abilities are not what they used to be. I can no longer climb some of the steeper pitches without the assistance of my class 1 eMTB. Additionally, I am able to travel similar distances I once could do on my non-assisted mountain bike. The speeds at which I and other ebike friends ride the trails are no greater than the ones of most of the people we encounter on the trails and forest roads. In those areas in other states and on lands managed by other agencies where class 1 ebikes are allowed, I have had no conflicts with other users.