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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to allow Class 1 eBikes on trails around Bend, Oregon. As an avid mountain biker and proud owner of a Class 1 eBike, I believe that permitting these bikes on our trails will greatly benefit our community and enhance the outdoor recreation experience for many.

Class 1 eBikes, which provide pedal-assist support up to 20 mph without a throttle, offer an excellent way for more people to enjoy the beauty and challenge of our local trails. Here are several reasons why Class 1 eBikes should be allowed:

Increased Accessibility: eBikes make mountain biking accessible to a broader range of people, including older adults, those with physical limitations, and individuals who may not have the stamina for traditional mountain biking. This inclusivity fosters a more diverse and vibrant community of outdoor enthusiasts.

Promoting Outdoor Recreation: Allowing Class 1 eBikes encourages more people to get outside and stay active. The pedal-assist feature enables riders to tackle longer and more challenging rides, promoting health and wellness while exploring the scenic trails around Bend.

Economic Benefits: The eBike industry is growing rapidly, and supporting its use can have positive economic impacts. Local bike shops, rental businesses, and tour operators can benefit from increased demand for eBikes, contributing to the local economy.

Environmental Impact: eBikes are an eco-friendly mode of transportation, reducing the need for car trips to trailheads and minimizing our carbon footprint. Encouraging eBike use aligns with broader environmental goals and sustainability efforts.

Trail Etiquette and Safety: Class 1 eBikes operate similarly to traditional bikes and can coexist harmoniously on trails. Education on proper trail etiquette and responsible riding can mitigate potential concerns about trail congestion and safety. Many studies have shown that Class 1 eBikes have a negligible impact on trail surfaces compared to traditional bikes.

Enhanced Enjoyment: For many riders, the assistive power of eBikes enhances the enjoyment of mountain biking. It allows riders to cover more ground, explore new areas, and experience the thrill of mountain biking without being deterred by the physical demands of steep climbs and long distances.

In conclusion, allowing Class 1 eBikes on trails around Bend, Oregon, is a positive step towards making outdoor recreation more inclusive, enjoyable, and sustainable. I urge the Forest Service to consider the numerous benefits and support this proposal. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.