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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposal to open 160 miles of singletrack trails in the Deschutes National Forest to Class 1 mountain bikes. This initiative holds significant personal importance to me and many others in our community.

For over 35 years, I have been an avid mountain biker, cherishing the physical challenge, the connection with nature, and the camaraderie with friends and family. However, due to a heart condition, I am no longer able to participate as a Category 1 racer or at any level. This limitation has significantly impacted my ability to engage in the sport that has been a cornerstone of my life.

The introduction of Class 1 pedal-assist mountain bikes has been a game-changer for individuals like me. These bikes provide the necessary assistance to manage challenging terrains without compromising the joy and essence of mountain biking. The pedal assist allows me to continue riding, maintaining my physical health, mental well-being, and social connections that are deeply rooted in this activity.

Opening these trails to Class 1 mountain bikes would not only enhance the recreational opportunities for people with health conditions but also foster a more inclusive and diverse community of riders. It would enable families and friends with varying levels of fitness and ability to enjoy the trails together, strengthening social bonds and promoting a healthier lifestyle for everyone involved.

The Deschutes National Forest is a treasured natural resource, and expanding access to it through the inclusion of Class 1 mountain bikes aligns with the broader goals of increasing outdoor recreation and environmental appreciation. Responsible use of these bikes ensures minimal impact on the trails while maximizing accessibility and enjoyment for a wider audience.

I urge you to consider the positive implications of this proposal, not only for individuals like myself but for the entire community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ivan Anderholm