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First name: B

Last name: Reall

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support allowing Level 1 ebikes on all trails for several reasons. Ebikes have been shown to cause no more wear to trails than standard mountain bikes. I ride both standard bikes and ebikes. A rider of a standard bike can easily cause damage to trails by skidding on trails, spinning tires, etc. Damage is generally caused by the rider, not the bike. Additionally, many ebikes are very similar in weight to downhill bikes, especially those a few years old.

Level 1 bikes do not have the same power as other types of electric powered bikes. They are for 'assist' and require pedaling in order for any assist to be provided. They do not cause wheel spin like a dirt bike.

Danger to hikers is also dependent on the rider. A non-assist bike bombing down a trail with an oblivious rider can be more dangerous than an alert rider on an ebike. Additionally, an ebike rider who is not exhausted may be in better control than a non-assist rider who pedaled more.

Finally, ebikes allow for riders to self-shuttle, creating less vehicles in parking areas. Many trails in the area are not set up as a 'loop', meaning the rider starts at the top and ends several miles downhill. The rider can either pedal back up to the top, or leave a vehicle at both top and bottom. An ebike makes pedaling back up to the top more feasible.

I do not support allowing more powerful bikes, non-pedal assist bikes with significant torque, similar to motorcycles, on the biking trails as those do have the possibility to create more damage.

As a side note, restricting ebikes to areas shared by OHVs and dirt bikes could be more dangerous as ebikes move more slowly than motorized vehicles and can obstruct traffic on trails and obstacles where narrow trails make it difficult to pull over or pass.