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Comments: Objection to Draft Decision for Class 1, Pedal-assist E-bikes on Select Trails in Deschutes National Forest, #66475

To Alicia Bergschneider and whom it may concern,

I object to the draft decision to adopt Alternative 2 allowing Class 1, pedal-assist E-bikes on select trails in Deschutes National Forest.

As I outlined in my comment from last year, letter ID 66475-6000-1098, adherence to the current simple rule, No E-bikes on Non-motorized Trails, is already a problem, and I have seen few signs of enforcement. Allowing a single class of e-bike on some trails increases the confusion and is complicated by the easy availability of "modding" equipment to make higher-power e-bikes masquerade as Class 1, pedal-assist.

The draft decision makes the indefensible claim that the status quo, No E-bikes, leads to confusion. The only less confusing alternative would be All E-bikes Allowed Everywhere.

The draft decision sidesteps the issue of enforcement and refers only to signage. There is already clear signage for Alternative 1 (No E-bikes), and what is lacking is a plan for enforcement. Lack of enforcement from a designated official entity leads to conflict between trail users as some following the rules may feel themselves obliged to fill the enforcement gap. And the gap will be felt. I expect the current lack of compliance will increase under the new, more complicated, rules.

Please amend the decision with a suitable enforcement plan and an analysis of expected compliance.

I also wish to see a comparison of enforcement plans for Alternative 2 and Alternative 1.

Thank you for your consideration.