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Comments: As a person who greatly values the outdoors, an avid recreational mountain bike rider and amateur racing cyclist in both road and mountain bike situations for over 40 years I strongly support this project to build and improve the network of bike friendly trails, roads and paths in the Big Bear forests. The area north of the lake is sorely lacking in sanctioned bike trails and this project would be a great step forward. I would like to submit that in keeping with the USFS draft e-bike rules a consideration for the use of e-bikes should be presented in this project with the goal of permitting e-bikes on any path, road or trail developed to permit cycling in general.

I have ridden standard bicycles for decades and started occasionally riding an e-bike three years ago. I haven't observed any significant difference between the two models except that it's easier to climb uphill on the e-bike.

Both bikes go the same speed down the hills.

Some may argue against e-bikes by claiming that they damage trails and that they go too fast which is unsafe for their riders and other trail users.

I haven't observed any truth to these claims. Moreover, these arguments have been studied and found to be false.

Recent studies have shown that the environmental impact of electric bikes on trails are not significantly different from normal bikes and speeds of electric bikes are no greater than normal bikes.

Please see "A Comparison of Environmental Impacts from Mountain Bicycles, Class 1 Electric Mountain Bicycles, and Motorcycles: Soil Displacement and Erosion on Bike-Optimized Trails in a Western Oregon Forest" prepared by The International Mountain Biking Association.

Please see "E-bike Pilot Study Results and Policy Recommendations" prepared by The Boulder County Parks & Open Space to the Board of County Commissioners.

Please move forward with the trail network project and also allow e-bikes on all trails built to permit cycling.

Thank you.