



SISTERS TRAILS ALLIANCE

PO Box 1871, Sisters, OR 97759

541-719-8822

www.sisterstrails.org

October 25, 2020

To: The National Forest Service

Regarding: FSM 7700 and 7710 E-bikes #ORMS-2619

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the directives as they pertain to the use of e-bikes on non-motorized trails.

Sisters Trails Alliance (STA) is a diverse group of volunteers and trail users, from hikers to mountain bikers to equestrians. Our mission is to connect people and communities to each other and their natural surroundings. We plan, build and maintain multi-user trails in and around Sisters, Oregon on land managed by the Sisters Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest.

The designation of the three classes of e-bikes on NFS land will be helpful in determining the appropriate use of bicycles and e-bikes on NFS trails and roads. STA recognizes that e-bikes provide access for individuals who may not be able to experience the recreation opportunities on NFS land without the assistance of an e-bike or a throttle to overcome inertia to get the bike going. Our motto is "Trails for Everyone" and we strive for inclusivity and want to ensure access to the trail system we maintain.

The potential for increased speed on an e-bike raises some concerns for us regarding safety, trail damage and trail user conflict. It is encouraging to see the proposed directives require local land managers to perform an environmental analysis before allowing e-bikes on certain trails. We look forward to working with our local ranger district to determine sustainable plans and encourage positive behavior for the use of e-bikes should the directives change.

We appreciate the opportunity to have a voice in these decisions.

Best Wishes,

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