

New Comments Received as of January 26, 2022:

"I am writing in support of granting Class-1, pedal assisted eMTB's equal access to the ACFL trails as is currently provided to Mt Bikes. I am frustrated to see the letters of those who are expressing opposition to this change as they are not providing any verified, factual data but rather are using emotion, anecdotal information and blatant misinformation, to support their positions.

After reading their letters, their primary concerns which are stated repeatedly are:

#1 Trail Damage

#2 Higher Speeds/hiker risk

#3 Noise

Allow me to provide verifiable facts that dispute these claims:

Trail damage: The IMBA study (attached to this email) concludes that Class 1 eMTBs are not likely to have any more impact than traditional mountain bikes or other trail users. This issue is one of the most common reasons cited as to why Class 1 eMTBs should not have trail access, but it is generally seen as a misconception. Increased trail uses and population growth in general will serve as a challenge to resources that we all must contend with, but we must not place the burden on any one user group without supporting scientific analysis.

Higher Speeds / Hiker Risk: As I have shown in my previous letter, assisted eMTBs are not appreciably faster than regular MTB's. Trail speeds are dictated by terrain. The terrain within the ACFL is technical and speed limiting within itself. *Strava* is an exercise monitoring app that many cyclists use. A thorough analysis of extensive *Strava* data shows that the *youngest and most fit* Mtb riders will only have an average speed of 7.5 mph. A typical eMTB rider in the ACFL is much closer to an avg speed of 6.0 mph. There are inconsiderate people within the ranks of every user group. Although the vast majority of my encounters with others within the ACFL is warm and friendly, I have had rare encounters with rude hikers. I would never suggest that they shouldn't be there! We should all strive to cooperate and respectfully enjoy our multi-use, COMMUNITY forest lands.

Noise: This claim is simply ridiculous and only shows the ignorance of those who use it. Class-1, pedal assisted eMTB's are incredibly quiet with a barely audible, gentle whirring sound. I would venture that the majority of people who are passed by a typical Class-1 eMTB are not even aware that it is a pedal-assisted bicycle.

Scare tactics and the spreading of blatant misinformation should not be considered when our decision makers evaluate this issue. We less-abled riders who have spent decades enjoying our riding passion within the ACFL, who have routinely contributed countless hours of trail building/maintenance and who have provided significant support to the CEP should not now be excluded as we age. Technology has created an option for us continue living healthy lifestyles while simultaneously giving back to our ACFL. I hope that our decision makers deem it appropriate to support our wish to continue accessing the ACFL as we have for many decades."

[Attachment 1](#)

~Bret Andrich

[Friend of the Forest Blog](#)

~Friends of the Forest