



peopleforbikes

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February 18, 2022

Forest Supervisor Eli Ilano c/o Alonzo Henderson
Yuba River Ranger District
Attn: Pines to Mines Trail Project
631 Coyote Street
Nevada City, CA 95959-2250

Dear Supervisor Ilano,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Pines to Mines Trail project on National Forest System lands located between Nevada City, CA and Truckee, CA within Nevada County, CA.

On behalf of the PeopleForBikes Coalition, I am writing in support of the Tahoe National Forest's efforts to develop new recreation opportunities and manage the forest to adapt to changing technologies and recreation patterns. We support the Proposed Actions, including the assessment of allowable use of mountain bikes and pedal-assist Class 1 Electric bicycles, as described in the Pines to Mines Scoping Notice.

The PeopleForBikes Coalition is the national advocacy group and industry association that works for better policies and infrastructure for bike riding. We strive to make bike riding a safer and more inclusive activity for everyone, including those that ride electric bicycles.

PeopleForBikes supports Tahoe National Forest's big picture goal of creating connected trails, as new natural surface single-track trail construction is urgently needed to help support existing levels of recreation on public lands. We applaud the allowance of bicycling on new and existing trails and are pleased that mountain biking will be considered as part of the use analysis. Federal land management agencies are critical to recreation infrastructure, as many of the best mountain biking and bicycling trails in the U.S. are on federal public lands. We are also happy to see that pedal-assist Class 1 electric bicycles are being considered under the Proposed Actions. Existing research from the East Zone Connectivity and Restoration Project in Tahoe National Forest indicates that pedal-assist Class 1 electric bicycles can be successfully incorporated into trails with non-motorized uses. The East Zone Connectivity's decision notice included the designation of 35 miles of existing non-motorized trails as open for Class 1 electric bicycles and determined that their access on the trails did not significantly alter public enjoyment or affect the patterns of use on the trails for Class 1 electric bicycle recreation.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. I would welcome the opportunity to provide further information on the potential for creating more connected trails for use by bicyclists and pedal-assist Class 1 e-bikes on federal public lands.

Sincerely,

Rachel Fussell
eMTB Policy & Program Manager
PeopleForBikes Coalition
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