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First name: Carolyn Last name: Riddle Organization:

Title:

Comments: I do not approve expanding the use of e bikes in the Tongass. These bikes may reduce emissions on city streets, but in wilderness areas they can become a source of noise pollution. Increased traffic and noise negatively impacts wildlife and the quiet visitors expect in a wilderness setting. How will speed limits and motor output be monitored in the back country? Even before the reduction in the number of park rangers, National Parks did not have the capacity to police thousands of miles of back country trails. Has thought been given to how much capacity park staff has to deal with accidents or even rescuing people whose batteries run out miles from ranger stations? Our parks do an excellent job of rescues for hikers, but will the number of rescues increase with increased e bike usage? If some trails open up to e bikes, please provide additional staffing and appropriate limits on speed and noise levels. Thank you.