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Comments: The proposed rule should be to not allow electric bicycle (e-bike) use on National Forest System (NFS) trails unless those trails are already open to motorized forms of travel.

Motor/battery technology will only advance creating faster bikes and it will be impossible for local land managers to enforce the class 1-2-3 distinctions.

E-bikes increase user conflict on hike, bike, equestrian trails. There are major differences between e-bike and a normal mountain bike, but the most pronounced is the the average travel speed during a e-bike ride is 2-3 times greater than a traditional pedal mountain bike. Because of this, almost every e-bike interaction with other trail users is at high speed, now hikers and bikers going down trail need to worry about out of control uphill traffic moving at > 10 mph. Additionally, with an e-bike an unfit rider is no longer doing a ~10 mile ride, they can motor along for a ~30 mile ride. So potential user conflict increases by a factor of ~3.

Punctured lithium ion batteries are likely to create an extremely hot fire that a typically rider would likely not have the ability to extinguish. Prior to adopting this rule, the USFS needs to document the potential risk of e-bikes causing forest fires.

There are plenty of trails open to motorized travel that e-bikes can use and I would encourage the USFS to build more.

Additionally, NFS roads should all be open to e-bikes if already open to motorized travel.

Thank you.