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Comments: The integration of e-bikes into National Forest lands puts the forest service in the position to promote either wilderness or recreation. As someone who recreates in National Forest land very regularly, I understand and greatly appreciate the recreation opportunities available, but I have studied and seen first hand how recreation comes with a price.

E-bikes offer recreation alternatives to people who may not otherwise be able to explore such public lands entirely by their own power, but they are also by definition motorized transport. While their electrical motors do not directly release the same emissions or noise as other motored vehicles, allowing them into areas where atv/motor vehicles are prohibited is breaking the commitment to the land and to the generations of humans and wildlife that will use it in the future.

I do not support any movement to allow motored E-Bikes, regardless of class, onto trails or wilderness areas currently prohibited to motored vehicles. Their presence will cause increased user conflict on trails and inevitably have negative physical impacts on the landscape, as well as increase wilderness disturbance further into protected areas by increasing the distance that can be covered with motor assistance. As a type of motorized transport, they need to be restricted as motorized transport, regardless of class.