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Comments: I live in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the base of the Sandia mountains. There are many hiking trails in both the Forest area and the Wilderness. Currently mountain bikes are banned from the Wilderness although there have been times when they have been seen in that area.

I am vehemently opposed to e-bikes in the forest lands regardless if those trails are in the Forest or the Wilderness areas. Wilderness has been designated "no motorized vehicles". An e-bike is motorized. Hence prohibited.

I have had many encounters with mountain bikes on the trails. Usually we pass each other amiably. But there have been situations where the bike comes on suddenly and I have to jump out of the way. Many trails are rocky and the bikers are doing their best to not fall. Adding a hiker or two just gives them more obstacles to try and manage. Now imagine the hiker with a leashed dog to maneuver as well. E-bikes will only enhance the dangers to both riders and hikers.

And above all, what about the creatures that live in the forested lands. The sound of e-bikes is disruptive and annoying. How are the wildlife to cope with yet another invasion of their homes? Imagine a deer, bear or cougar meeting a biker and having to run away. What if that animal has a young one ?

The tires on bikes, mountain and e-bikes, grind the soil as they pass over it. This loosens the rocks and the soil. Rain and hail on such a surface results in accelerated erosion. The path that descends down Sandia mountain under the ski lift has gone from being ankle deep to thigh deep due to such erosion impacts. That path is not the only one that is being impacted adversely.

The introduction of e-bikes into the Forest is only one-step away from scooters and dirt bikes having the same access. Mountain bikes don't fit with the definition of Wilderness and e-bikes don't belong in the Forest at all.