

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2020 6:14:28 PM

First name: Jeanne

Last name: Held-Warmkessel

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the Forest Service's proposed rule to open up my National Forest lands to additional e-bike use multiple reasons:

*E-bikes must continue to be treated as motor vehicles because they are not bicycles. New e-bikes are being developed now that will drive up to 55 mph. E-bikes must travel only where motor vehicles are allowed.

*This proposed rule will cause extreme environmental damage and it must be fully evaluated through an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

*The proposed rule produces conflicts with the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212 et seq).

*Because of their speed and quiet nature, e-bikes can travel much farther into the backcountry, and startle and disturb wildlife and scare horses and hikers over far greater distances. E-bikes also conflict with other nonmotorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists.

*Because there is almost no enforcement now for trespass, illegal off-trail riding, and illegal trail development by some bikers, e-bikes will increasingly trespass into Wilderness and other protected areas with no consequences. This illegal use will degrade the wild character of these lands and should not be permitted as this rule will do.

*The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal. It's a bad idea.