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

This proposed rule suggests likely environmental impacts that should be fully evaluated through an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

E-bikes must continue to be treated as motor vehicles, 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.

Because of their speed and quiet nature, e-bikes can travel much farther into the backcountry, and startle and disturb wildlife over far greater distances.

Because there is almost no enforcement now for trespass / illegal off-trail riding / illegal trail development by some bikers, it will surely occur that e-bikes will increasingly trespass into Wilderness and other protected areas. This illegal activity will degrade the wild character of these lands and should not be encouraged as this rule will do.

The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.