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First name: Jana

Last name: Perinchief

Organization:

Title:

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.

It's patently obvious that e-bikes are motor vehicles, and not bicycles. Therefore, they must continue to be treated as motor vehicles.

Please understand that the overwhelming number of Americans come to our forests to enjoy the natural beauty, peace and quiet, as well as the fauna that live in these sanctuaries. However, new e-bikes are being developed now that will drive up to 55 mph. This will not only eliminate the peace and quiet, but will also drive away the fauna that many forest visitors come to enjoy. This is why e-bikes must travel only where motor vehicles are allowed. They must be restricted to those areas.

In addition, please consider the following points:

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). Please do not cut any corners here.

The proposed rule appears to set up conflicts with the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212 et seq).

We must also consider the invasive potential of e-bikes. Due to their speed and quiet nature, they can travel much farther into the backcountry, and startle and disturb wildlife over far greater distances. E-bikes also conflict with other nonmotorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists.

Enforcement is also a potential big issue. 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 encouraged as this rule will do.

For all of the above reasons, I believe that the Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.