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

-E-bikes must continue to be treated as motor vehicles, not bicycles, because they ARE electric. 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 suggests likely environmental impacts that should be fully evaluated through an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

-The proposed rule appears to set up 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 over far greater distances. E-bikes also conflict severely 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 without any consequences. This illegal use will seriously degrade the wild character of these lands and should not be encouraged--which this proposed rule will do.

The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.