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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:

The likely environmental impacts must 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).

Since e-bikes are being developed now that will drive up to 55 mph they must continue to be treated as motor vehicles and only travel where motor vehicles are allowed.

E-bikes can travel much farther into the backcountry due to their speed and quiet nature which will startle and disturb wildlife over far greater distances. Not to mention that E-bikes also conflict with other none motorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists.

Since there is almost no enforcement now for trespass, illegal off-trail riding, and illegal trail development by some bikers, adding e-bikes to the mix will definitely increase trespass into Wilderness and other protected areas with no consequences to the offender, but huge once to the wildlife.

The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.