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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:

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. These are not appropriate to forest trails and should be permitted only where motor vehicles are allowed.

This proposed rule should not be adopted before an environmental impact statement (EIS) is conducted pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

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

Finally, e-bikes are inappropriately intrusive as they can easily penetrate backcountry thanks to their speed, disturbing wildlife and 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 encouraged as this rule will do.

The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.