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Comments: As a biologist and frequent visitor to wilderness areas, I strongly oppose the Forest Service's proposed rule to open National Forest lands to E-bike use.

This rule requires an EIS, per the regulations under NEPA, because the data show that bicycles disturb wildlife and degrade the landscape. The proposed rule conflicts with the Forest Service Travel Management Rule.

Over the past decade, I have observed extensive and increasing damage to trails and the landscape by bicyclists. E-bikes will be even more damaging, especially because users will inevitably penetrate farther into wilderness.

I have also observed many violations of behavior in wilderness and know that there is no ability to enforce regulations due to understaffing within the Service. Allowing E-bikers into wilderness will bring sustained and uncontrolled abuse of the landscape and unsustainable wildlife disturbance.

The Forest Service must not encourage the further degradation of lands in its care and should withdraw this proposal.