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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Your proposal to open up more trails in our National Forests to electric bikes, or e-bikes, has huge implications for wildlands, wildlife, and Wilderness on more than 150 million acres of your public lands. I strongly oppose this. Electric bikes are motor vehicles. I'm concerned that it appears that the reason for the rule is to allow e-bikes on non-motorized trails in the future because the agency is treating e-bikes differently than other motor vehicles. This is in conflict with the agency's own Travel Management Rule and has the potential to impact the environment, so the agency should analyze such a proposal under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Research shows that like all recreation, mountain bikes displace wildlife, and because they travel farther and faster than hikers or equestrians, they can impact a much greater area in the same amount of time. E-bikes can travel much farther into the backcountry in less time, and startle and disturb wildlife over far greater distances. E-bikes also conflict with nonmotorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists. I request you consider the possible problems that could arise from use of e-bikes and withdraw this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.