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Comments: The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.

E-bikes are motor vehicles, not bicycles. E-bikes must travel only where motor vehicles are allowed. Environmental impacts of the proposal 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).

E-bikes also conflict with other nonmotorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists.

These bikes with their faster speed can venture into more remote areas. 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.

Thank you for considering my comments.