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Title:

Comments: I oppose the presence of e-bikes on single track trails for the reasons listed below. Also bicycles. I was almost struck by a bicycle going down a National Forest Service trail near Yosemite. The bike was traveling at high speed and made little noise so I had almost no time to jump off the trail. At the speed it was traveling there was no way it could have yielded to me, a hiker, as the rules indicate. E-bikes would pose an even greater hazard and would greatly change the nature of hiking from a relaxing (though often strenuous) activity to one more resembling an amusement park with high-speed rides, even if one were not on a bike. Thanks for considering this view.

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. E-bikes must travel only where motor vehicles are allowed.

This proposed rule suggests likely environmental impacts that 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).

Because of their speed and quiet nature, e-bikes can travel much farther into the backcountry, and startle and disturb wildlife over far greater distances. E-bikes also conflict with other 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.