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Comments: This past summer dramatized the increasing demand for and overuse of National Forest trails. New populations are flocking to trails, including families with children, seniors and urban dwellers unfamiliar with the mixed use of some trails. All need safe, natural and relaxed environments in which to enjoy their brief forays into the nature. For this reason foremost, I oppose the Forest Service's proposed rule to open up my National Forest lands to additional e-bike use. I would also like to suggest some other reasons. for the following reasons:

E-bikes are motor vehicles, not bicycles. They should travel only where motor vehicles are allowed. Because of their speed, e-bikes can travel much farther into the backcountry, and disturb wildlife over far greater distances. E-bikes also conflict with other non-motorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists.

The proposed rule suggests environmental impacts that should be more fully considered in a complete environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

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.

Please withdraw this radical proposal.