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Comments: I oppose the Forest Service's proposed rule to open up my National Forest lands to e-bike on trails. The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal. E-bikes must be treated as motor vehicles, not bicycles. New e-bikes can travel at speeds that put hikers, equestrian other cyclists at risk. They are a public health risk on the trail, and E-bikes must travel only where motor vehicles are allowed.

E-bikes can travel much farther into the backcountry, and research shows more significant human disturbances startle and disturb wildlife over far greater distances.

This proposed rule must be thoroughly evaluated, with the environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The proposed rule sets up conflicts with the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212 et seq).

Because there is limited funding, and enforcement is unlikely. Under-resourced forest and low priority enforcement now for trespass, illegal off-trail riding, and illegal trail development wears hard on our forest and other protected areas like Wilderness, roadless areas, and other protected areas with little consequences. E-Bikes will degrade these lands' wild character and should not be encouraged as this rule will do.