

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2020 8:36:19 PM

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Title:

Comments: I oppose the Forest Service's proposed rule to open up my National Forest lands to additional e-bike use for the following reasons:

*I visit national forests to get away from the noise and chaos of the city, to photograph beautiful naturescapes, and peacefully view wildlife. The last thing we need in national forests is E-bikes off the roads for motorized vehicles. E-bikes can go up to 55 mph, so they can go way to fast and far off the main roads. They should be limited to the main roads for motorized vehicles. 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, photographers, wildlife viewers, horseback riders, and bicyclists.

*It is imperative that the 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 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.

*In conclusion, the Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.