

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2020 8:21:50 PM

First name: Ellis

Last name: Woodward

Organization:

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:

- 1) E-bikes must be treated as motor vehicles, not bicycles. New e-bikes are being developed that will be able to drive up to 55 mph. E-bikes must travel only where motor vehicles are allowed.
- 2) 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).
- 3) The proposed rule appears to set up conflicts with the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212 et seq).
- 4) 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 - such as hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists. Also, 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, thus further degrading the wild character of these lands, which should not be encouraged.

The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.