Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2020 9:33:21 PM

First name: Harry Last name: Schmerl Organization:

Title:

Comments: Desr Sirs,

E-bikes must continue to be treated as motor vehicles, not bicycles.

New e-bikes will be in production that will be able to drive up to 55 mph. From my point of view, E-bikes must travel only where motor vehicles are allowed.

The 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 potential 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. Respectfully, I request that the Forest Service withdraw this proposal.