

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2020 11:09:58 PM

First name: Jacci

Last name: McKenna

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:

E-bikes must continue to be treated as motor vehicles, not bicycles. New e-bikes are being developed now that will achieve speeds up to 55 mph and as such, should only be permitted where motor vehicles are allowed.

An EIS under NEPA needs to be conducted to determine the true environmental impacts which I contend would negatively impact wildlife substantially.

The proposed rule appears to set up conflicts with the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212 et seq).

Because of their speed and quiet nature, e-bikes can travel much further 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 of the lack of funding for enforcement, illegal off-trail riding, and illegal trail development already occurs, e-bikes will increasingly trespass into Wilderness and other protected areas with little or no consequences. This illegal use degrades the wild character of these lands and should not be encouraged as this rule will do.

I am requesting the Forest Service withdraw this proposal.