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Comments: I am a Retired Forest Service Permanent Employee, who worked on EIS's, EA's and was a Strategic Planner. I have a BS in Watershed Management.

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

E-bikes MUST continue to be treated as motor vehicles, they are NOT bicycles, they are motor driven bikes, by definition

New e-bikes are being developed now that will drive up to 55 mph. Due to the possibility of Visitor Injury, impact to Wildlife and Severe Resource Damage E-bikes must travel only where motor vehicles are allowed.

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). An EIS should be done, NOT an EA or lesser assessment!

The proposed rule establishes severe Conflicts with the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212 et seq) that MUST BE RESOLVED before moving forward.

Because of their speed and quiet nature, e-bikes can travel much farther into the backcountry and subsequently disturb wildlife and their habitats over far greater areas, with far greater and longer lasting impacts.

E-bikes also will produce SUBSTANTIAL CONFLICTS and INTERFERE with other non-motorized trail users like Hikers, Horseback Riders, Hunters, Fishermen, Climbers, Bird and Animal Watchers, Children and Bicyclists. These impacts on other individuals recreation activities have not been adequately addressed in your assessments!

Because there is NOT adequate enforcement now for trespassing and impacting our Forest Lands and no plan to address that failing by the US Forest Service, Inevitably there will be increased illegal off-trail riding, and illegal trail development by some bikers, e-bikes will increasingly trespass MUCH FURTHER into Wilderness and other protected areas with no consequences, Severely harming those resources, Yet another indication that this is a poorly conceived and POLITICALLY INFLUENCED plan!

This illegal use will degrade the wild character of these lands and severely impact those resources for Future Generations of US Citizens! This is a INCREDIBLE FAIL for the US Forest Service whose PRIMARY DUTY is to ENFORCE THE REGULATIONS SET BY CONGRESS, NOT TO CREATE POLICY WHICH DIRECTLY CONFLICTS WITH THOSE CONGRESSIONAL MANDATES!

I urge the US Forest Service to withdraw this plan IMMEDIATELY and DO YOUR JOB, AS SPECIFIED BY REGULATION, NOT BY POLITICAL INTERFERENCE!