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First name: Gene & Cathey

Last name: Hardin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service

We are writing to express our strong opposition to a proposed rule that would open up non motorized routes to e-bikes. We are both avid mountain bikers and enjoy biking on National Forest System Lands. However, we are very much opposed to the proposed rule for the following reasons:

E-bikes are indeed motorized vehicles and are capable of very high speeds. Therefore, they should only be allowed on routes open to motor vehicles.

Given budget cutbacks, there is currently basically no enforcement for illegal off-trail riding or illegal trail development by some users and e-bikes will no doubt increasingly trespass into Wilderness and other protected areas if the rule passes. This will further degrade the wild character of these lands.

Allowing e-bikes on non-motorized routes will definitely have environmental impacts that should be analyzed thru an EIS under NEPA.

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

E-bikes are faster regular bikes and are also quite giving them the ability to travel much farther into the backcountry thus startling and disturbing wildlife over far greater distances. E-bikes also conflict with other nonmotorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists.

We urge the Forest Service to withdraw the proposed rule allowing e-bikes on non-motorized routes.

Sincerely,

Gene & Cathey Hardin

3 Bull Trail

Ennis, MT 59729