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Comments: As a USFS and National Park trail maintenance volunteer I oppose the Forest Service's proposed rule to open up 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 drive up to 55 mph. I've seen them on our county roads as well as the dirt trail across the street from where I live. They are just like the local motorcycles.
- 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).

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 farther into the backcountry, and startle and disturb wildlife over far greater distances. As well as run into, run over unsuspecting, hard of hearing, foot travelers. E-bikes conflict with other nonmotorized trail users like 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 as this rule will do. One only needs to hike some trails in USFS land and in our National Parks to see the number of "use" trails that are being created regularly. These will increase in more areas if E-bikes are allowed.

The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.