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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:

First and foremost, 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. E-bikes must travel only where motor vehicles are allowed. 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--so they will have greater negative impact on wildlife and the environment. E-bikes also conflict with other non-motorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists. Wild areas are trafficked enough with these non-motorized modes of transport and recreation--we don't need more modes on the trails, and they certainly shouldn't be motorized--they will crowd out and take over.

Additionally, 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.

In a nutshell, the Forest Service should withdraw this proposal. It does not benefit our wild lands in any way, and adversely affects those already using the trails in less impactful ways.