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Comments: I disagree with the Forest Service's proposed rule to open up National Forest lands to additional e-bike use for the following reasons:

This proposed rule should be evaluated through an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

E-bikes should continue to be regulated as motor vehicles, not bicycles. New e-bikes are being developed that will drive up to 55 mph. I believe that E-bikes must be allowed where motor vehicles are permitted.

E-bikes can travel much farther into the backcountry, and can disturb wildlife over far greater distances. E-bikes will also conflict with trail users such as hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists.

E-bikes will increasingly trespass into Wilderness and other protected areas with few consequences. This will degrade the wild character of these areas and should not be encouraged as this rule will most certainly do.

The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.