

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/22/2020 2:07:15 AM

First name: Doug

Last name: Gledhill

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the Forest Service's proposed rule to open National Forest lands to more e-bike use for the following reasons.

1. E-bikes, especially newer ones, can travel at speeds up to 55 mph. This speed allows for further incursions into the backcountry and more disturbances to wildlife over greater distances, at a time, when wildlife is already experiencing enormous pressures due to human impact. E-bikes also conflict with other non motorized trail users, and, because of lax enforcement, trespass and illegal off trail riding by some bikers will only increase into wilderness and other protected areas. This will not only degrade the wild character of these lands but compromise the integrity of the habitat needed by myriad of species for their survival.

2. This rule is an affront to decades of efforts made to protect the natural heritage of this country, all for some short sighted, self centered interests and appears to be in conflict with the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule(36 CFR 212). If anything, e-bikes should be managed as motor vehicles. Otherwise, this proposed rule change should be withdrawn.