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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:

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.

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 conflicts with the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212 et seq).mThe speed and quiet of e-bikes allows them to travel much too far into the backcountry, significantly disturbing wildlife. E-bikes also conflict with hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists. As there is almost no enforcement against trespass, illegal off-trail riding, and illegal trail development, e-bikes will increasingly trespass into Wilderness and other protected areas with no consequences. This illegal usage will degrade the wild character of these lands that we need to protect.

The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.