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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in opposition to the Forest Service's proposed rule to open our National Forests to expanded e-bike use.

I understand some e-bikes can travel as fast as 55 mph! This makes them a danger to people who may be camping or hiking and certainly threatens wildlife. They should be treated as other motor vehicles and should be restricted to roads where cars are allowed to drive.

The proposed rule implies possible environmental impacts that need to be fully evaluated through an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

I have read that the proposed rule appears seems to conflict with the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212 et seq).

Because they are fast and quiet relative to motorcycles or cars, e-bikes can venture deeper into the backcountry, startling and disturbing wildlife and humans on foot, horseback or regular bicycles over much wider areas.

This rule will encourage illegal use because there is already practically no enforcement of existing rules concerning trespass, illegal off-trail riding, and illegal trail development by some bikers. E-bikes will increasingly encroach into precious Wilderness and other protected areas with no consequences to the riders. Such use will further degrade the character of our wilderness and park lands and should not be encouraged.

I believe the Forest Service should withdraw this proposal. Thank you for considering my opinion as someone who loves to hike in our parks and who treasures the experience of our ever-dwindling natural environment.