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Comments: We have instigated a climate crisis and mass extinction and must take immediate action to mitigate the worst of them. One way we can address both of these catastrophes is by safeguarding every single remaining wild place we've got. Naturally, I oppose the Forest Service's proposed rule to open up any National Forest lands to additional e-bike use for so many reasons.

E-bikes are essentially motor vehicles, not bicycles, and some of them are capable of driving 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. E-bikes also conflict with other nonmotorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists. Also, because there is almost no current enforcement 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.

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 appears to set up conflicts with the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212 et seq).

I urge the Forest Service to withdraw this proposal for the sake of life on earth. Thank you for this opportunity to comment and for all you can do to protect all beings who share this world.