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Organization:

Title:

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:

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires potential environmental impacts of the proposed rule to be fully evaluated through an EIS.

E-bikes are motor vehicles, not bicycles, and must travel only where motor vehicles are allowed. New e-bikes are being developed now that will drive up to 55 mph. E-bikes Because of their speed and quiet operation, 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.

Current trespass, illegal off-trail riding, and illegal trail development by some bikers and e-bikes will increasingly trespass into Wilderness and other protected areas with few or no consequences. This illegal use will degrade the wild character of these lands and should not be encouraged as this rule will do.

The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.