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Comments: For the following reasons, I oppose the USFS's proposed rule to open up our National Forest lands to additional e-bike use.

1. E-bikes are not bicycles; they are, in fact, motorized vehicles. As such they should be restricted to areas open to motorized recreation. They should not be allowed on trails or in areas where motorized vehicles are prohibited.
2. Because of their stealthy nature and their capacity to attain high speeds, e-bikes can travel much farther into the backcountry. This will inevitably result in disturbance to wildlife over far greater distances. E-bikes also conflict with nonmotorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists.
3. Because there is almost no enforcement now 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.
4. The proposed rule suggests likely environmental impacts that should be fully evaluated through an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
5. The proposed rule appears to set up conflicts with the USFS's Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212 et seq).

On the basis of these legal and environmental reasons, the USFS should withdraw this proposal.

Thank you.