Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/22/2020 6:35:49 AM First name: William Last name: Ahrens Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am greatly concerned about the possible use of e-bikes in the national forests. If e-bikes are to be considered than a thorough environmental review of the area considered should be done to determine the impacts on the forest and the wildlife present there. E-bikes allow the rider to go faster than a traditional pedal bike. This has multiple impacts on the forest. It allows the rider to travel farther in a short amount of time thus penetrating deeper into the forest than a traditional bike rider. It also causes more wear and erosion on the trails than the traditional bike because of the higher speed and greater travel distance, or if looping a traditional mountain bike trail, make more passes in a day. It will bring more traffic into the forest because it will bring a new class of riders that weren't willing to put the effort into pedaling uphill but, are more than happy to motor uphill and cruise down at high speed. Another impact is the disruption to wildlife. The increased traffic and the increased penetration into the forest. Thank you for considering these impacts. It may be reasonable to allow e-bikes on forest roads and trails designated for other motor vehicle use but having them competing with traditional pedal bikes mountain bike trails does not seem reasonable nor does allowing them in sensitive wildlife areas. Thank you for considering more considering them in sensitive wildlife areas.