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Comments: I am submitting an opinion as both a forestry professional and an avid hiker. Professionally, I have long observed the damage inflicted by mountain bikes to protected landscapes and to the wildlife that exists in those protected landscapes. As a hiker, which is passive recreation, I have had to endure aggressive mountain biking inflicting itself on my wilderness experience including, but not limited to, trail degradation.

Now, for some inexplicable reason, the USDA Forest Service seems to be proposing a rule which would reclassify e-bikes as non-motorized. Permitting the use of e-bikes in our protected public landscapes would greatly exacerbate degradation both to trails and surrounding landscape and put much greater pressure on wildlife. It would also increase conflicts with hikers such as myself as well as bicyclists and horseback riders.

E-bikes are motorized. Period. The Forest Service should not be proposing rules which would degrade public lands and impact wildlife as well as traditional human users of those lands. I strongly urge the USDA Forest Service to withdraw this proposed rule.