

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/22/2020 1:07:38 PM

First name: Vicki

Last name: Sieber-Benson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: E-bikes are motorized vehicles and should continue to be treated as motor vehicles, not bicycles.

Simply because they are quiet does not change that fact. In many ways, it makes them more dangerous, even if less polluting.

*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), not simply listed and ignored.

*

*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 hikers who can be pushed off trail.

*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.

*The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.