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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:

E-bikes should be treated as MOTOR vehicles, not bicycles. They will be designed to travel even faster, not a good thing.

This proposed rule will most likely have a destructive environmental impact.

The proposed rule appears to set up conflicts with the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212 et seq).

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 other nonmotorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists. It is bad enough encountering mountain bikes as a hiker. I can't imagine having to deal with e-motorists too.

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.

I strongly encourage the Forest Service to withdraw this proposal. Our wild lands are already compromised. We don't need to add more adverse impacts to fragile wild lands.