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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.

E-bikes are motorized vehicles; they must be treated as vehicles, NOT bicycles. New e-bikes will be able to attain speeds up to 55 mph; these e-bikes cannot be allowed anywhere other than where motor vehicles are allowed.

This proposed rule will very likely cause environmental impacts that should be fully evaluated through an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

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 startle and disturb wildlife in a larger tracts of forest lands and also pose a greater risk to non-motorized trail users (e.g., hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists).

Because there is almost no enforcement now for trespass, illegal off-trail riding & illegal trail development by some bikers, e-bikers will increasingly trespass into Wilderness and other protected areas with no consequences. This illegal use will increasingly degrade the wild character of these lands.

This proposed rule encourages greater destruction of wilderness & our national forests. The Forest Service should WITHDRAW THIS PROPOSAL.

Thank you for considering these comments.