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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I STRONGLY oppose the Forest Service's proposed rule to open up my National Forest lands to additional e-bike use.

E-bikes are NOT regular bicycles, they are motorized and are motor vehicles. They can go at highway speeds (55 mph), so they should only be allowed where other motor vehicles are permitted.

This proposed rule notes there will be environmental impacts that should be fully evaluated through an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). No rules should be implemented that have negative impact on the environment. E-bikes can be ridden elsewhere.

Since e-bikes are fast, but also quiet -- they will be taken much farther into the backcountry and will have significant impact on wildlife in much larger areas. This is in conflict with the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212 et seq). They will also disturb hikers, and legitimate bicyclists.

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.

Since e-bikes will be able to travel such great distances, there will be little ability to fully monitor them. It is a given, that there will be trespassing and illegal off-trail riding and trail development. There are almost NO consequences and enforcement of illegal trespassing and it will become a much larger problem.

Please withdraw this proposal and maintain the wilderness for wildlife and non-motorized visitors (hikers, bicyclists).

Thank you.