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First name: Georgette

Last name: Theotig

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my **STRONG OPPOSITION** to the recent proposal by the Department of Agriculture to expand use of E-Bikes in the National Forest System of non-motorized trails. Please consider the following reasons to **NOT ALLOW** expansion of E-Bikes on National forest trail systems:

1. There are an estimated 60,000 miles of existing trails already open to E-Bike use. What are the reasons to expand this use of E-Bikes on National Forest lands? This expansion certainly cannot justify the damage to natural resources.
2. E-Bikes travel farther and faster than hikers or mountain bikes. Please consider the significant disruption to wildlife, other passive recreational users, impacts to habitat, and overall degradation of a passive experience on National forest lands. I have read of tragic consequences of both joggers and bike riders startling a bear on the trail. The end result is unnecessary harm to both bikers and wildlife.
3. When a motorized use is expanded, one can expect a likely increase in an unauthorized expansion of trail use. A network of off-trail routes will begin that will cause habitat loss and erosion.

I am curious as to why the Department of Agriculture would even consider expansion of E-Bike use on National forest trails. Please consider the significant negative impacts of expanded E-Bike trail use. Please record my comments as **OPPOSED**.

Sincerely,

Georgette Theotig