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Comments: As an avid off-roader, I value our wild backcountry. There are plenty of roads available for motorized vehicles like ours AND e-bikes. Wild backcountry such as in the National Forest lands should be kept wild, with as little human interference as possible.

I am concerned about the Forest Service's proposed rule to open up my National Forest lands to additional e-bike use.

E-bikes must be treated as motor vehicles, not bicycles. New e-bikes are being developed now that will drive up to 55 mph. E-bikes must travel only where motor vehicles are allowed. What's next? Allowing electric CARS on the paths????

The backcountry should be kept wild. Leave the wildlife alone. Because of their speed and quiet nature, e-bikes can travel much farther into the backcountry, disturbing the wildlife much more than hikers. E-bikes are dangerous around hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists.

Rather than allowing e-bikes into the backcountry, we should be enforcing trespass, illegal off-trail riding, and illegal trail development. Otherwise, e-bikes will increasingly trespass into Wilderness and other protected areas with no consequences. This rule will encourage this illegal use and degrade the wild character of these lands.

PLEASE withdraw this proposal.