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Comments: One of the things that I enjoy most about the outdoors is the quietness of it. I can hike for miles and get away - literally - from everything. If e-bikes are allowed onto hiking trails, this solitude would be lost forever. Certainly, I understand that e-bikes are quieter than typical motorized vehicles, however they still have a noise to them! They would allow people to go farther and farther into the forests that up to this point have been accessible only on foot. This has tremendous implications not only for people like me who want to go out without seeing a single other living soul, but also for the plants and animals that up to this point have not been disturbed by people. It simply isn't possible to have more people in the back country without disrupting everything that lives there.

E-bikes must continue to be treated as the motor vehicles they are. They conflict with nonmotorized trail users such as hikers, like myself, as well as horseback riders and bicyclists. I am also concerned about enforcement of e-bike use in the proposed areas. Law enforcement is already stretched thin and I just don't see how officers can provide enforcement to what would be an even bigger footprint within the forests. This could be disastrous for ranchers as well, who depend on the goodwill of forest users to close gates as they go through the forest. More people in the forest inevitably will lead to gates being left open and cattle ranching in areas they're not supposed to.

The Forest Service must withdraw the e-bike proposal. It is bad for hikers, bikers, horsemen, and most importantly the wildlife that inhabits the forest.