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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the Forest Service's Proposed Rule to open up my National Forest lands to additional e-bike use for the following reasons:

E-bikes must continue to 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;

This proposed rule suggests likely environmental impacts that should be fully evaluated through an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act;

The proposed rule sets 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 travel much farther into the back country, and startle and disturb wildlife over far greater distances. E-bikes also conflict with other non-motorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders and bicyclists;

Because there is little to no enforcement for trespassing, illegal off-trail riding and illegal trail development by bikers, e-bikes will increasingly trespass into Wilderness and other protected areas with no consequences and degrade the wild character of these lands and should not be encouraged as this Proposed Rule will do.