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Comments: Thank you for allowing me to comment on FSM 7700 and 7710 E-bikes #ORMS-2619. I oppose the US Forest Service proposed rule to open up National Forest lands to additional e-bike use for the following reasons:

- * New e-bikes are being developed that can travel at speeds up to 55 mph. Therefore, e-bikes should be considered motor vehicles, not treated the same as human powered bicycles. E-bikes must travel only where motor vehicles are allowed.
- * This proposed rule suggests environmental impacts that should be fully evaluated through an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- * The proposed rule appears to set 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 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.
- * The US Forest Service is understaffed and enforcement of trespass, illegal off-trail riding, and illegal trail development by some bikers, e-bikes may increasingly trespass into Wilderness and other protected areas with no consequences.

The Forest Service should complete an EIS and provide the public with the results of the EIS before moving forward with this proposal.

Thank you.