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Comments: New e-bikes are being developed that will travel up to 55 mph, which makes them most appropriately classified as motor vehicles. As such, E-bikes must only be permitted to travel in areas where motor vehicles are allowed.

This proposed rule change that would allow E-bikes on non-motorized trails conflicts with the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212 et seq). Due to their speed and quiet nature, e-bikes can travel much farther into the backcountry, and disturb wildlife over far greater distances. E-bikes also conflict with other nonmotorized trail users such as hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists.

Because there is almost no enforcement now for trespass, illegal off-trail riding, and illegal trail development by some bikers will encourage e-bikes to trespass into Wilderness and other protected areas with no consequences. This illegal use will degrade the wild character of these lands and should not be encouraged as this rule change will do.

I urge The Forest Service to withdraw this proposal.