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Comments: As someone who frequently backpacks in the national forests and regularly hikes and rides horses in the national forests and parks, I am completely opposed to the idea of inviting bicycles, let alone e.bikes, into the back country. This last summer I saw the results of some e.bikes in the back country in the Tahoe National forest: tracks not only on the trails but on the steep slopes off trail. There was even a spot where they had built a jump on a steep side slope off the trail. This was at a location at least 10 miles from the nearest motorized vehicle boundary, and I have never in 20 years of frequenting this area seen even a bicycle near the trailhead.

Another reason bikes, especially e.bikes, should not be allowed in the national forest and other places reserved for nature enthusiasts is that horses and bicycles do not combine well on the trail. I have witnessed people get broken necks off their horses, and broken collar bones and backs off their bikes when these two modes meet each other unexpectedly on the trail. Usually the bikes are going too fast. Inviting more people to get themselves up in elevation where they can come screaming down the trails by allowing them to have motor assistance goes against the entire credo of wilderness. Please please hold the line so that there can be peaceful enjoyment of the forest service lands.