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Comments: I vigorously OPPOSE the Forest Service's proposed rule to open up my National Forest lands to additional e-bike use. This is a misguided proposal for numerous reasons.

E-bikes must continue to be treated as motor vehicles. They are not bicycles. New e-bikes soon to be available will be able to drive up to 55 mph. That is a motor vehicular rate of travel, thus e-bikes must be allowed ONLY where motor vehicles are allowed. This provides more than sufficient opportunities for their enjoyment without despoiling my National Forest lands with expanded use.

This proposed rule incurs inevitable environmental impacts that must be fully evaluated through an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The proposed rule also directly conflicts with the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212 et seq).

Because of their design e-bikes can travel much farther into the backcountry, disturbing and unnaturally upsetting native wildlife over far greater distances.

E-bikes are also in direct conflict with other non-motorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists.

There is in reality almost no enforcement now for trespass, illegal off-trail riding, and illegal trail development by some bikers, thus e-bikes will increasingly 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 instituting this rule would do.

The Forest Service must withdraw this short-sighted and ill-considered proposal.

Thank you for your understanding and support.