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First name: Chelsea

Last name: Liddell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing to oppose allowing e-bikes in areas of the National Forest where motorized vehicles are not already allowed.

The Forest is best managed when its different areas are optimized for different types of users. For example, different types of campgrounds are optimized for different types of users - road-access RV camping, designated backcountry sites, and distributed camping are all managed differently, and happen in different areas, for users seeking different types of experiences.

Trails are best managed the same way, with some allowing only non-mechanized use, others for non-motorized use, and some for motorized use. An electric motor IS a motor, and e-bikes should be classified as motorized vehicles. They are faster than mountain bikes, affect others' recreation differently, and carry risks that non-motorized bikes simply do not. We already have trails dedicated to motorized recreation, which e-bikes can take advantage of. These are wonderful trails for those who don't want to, or are unable to engage in self-powered recreation. But maintaining different areas for those who want the experience of self-powered recreation preserves a different type of forest experience, which is extremely important.

Thank you for your consideration.