Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/25/2020 4:47:53 PM

First name: Dennis Last name: Koehler Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the Forest Service's proposed updates to directives and proposed rule to open up National Forest lands to additional e-bike use. E-bikes are more like motorcycles than bicycles. They have a motor and should be treated as any other motorize vehicle and not be given a separate classification or treated differently than other motorized vehicles.

E-bikes have the speed of other motorized vehicles, cover the distances of other motorized vehicles, and cause the damage and harm of other motorized vehicles. E-bikes are incompatible with, and would conflict with, other non-motorized trail users such as hikers, horseback riders etc. Due to their speed and ability to cover longer distance, they would cause more damage to wildlife and the environment. There already is a problem with lack of enforcement of off trail riding, trespass, and illegal trail development by some bikers and E-bikes will compound this problem

There are currently many miles of motorized vehicle trails that e-bike can use and it is not necessary to give e-bikes access to more trails at the expense of hikers, horseback riders and other non-motorized trail users.

I request that the Forest Service withdraw this proposal.