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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello USFS,

As an avid hiker I already experience the detrimental aspects of mountain bike use on shared trails. I have almost never experienced cyclist adherence to the right of way on trails. I constantly look out for and move out of the way of cyclists going in either direction. I do it for my own and others safety and because it is implicitly expected. The speed and sometimes recklessness demands it. I am not saying that current cycling should be stopped, but allowing e-bikes will only worsen the situation. I believe the negative effects on wildlife will also be increased. The following statements summarize my view on this correctly.

I oppose the Forest Service's proposed rule to open up my National Forest lands to additional e-bike use for the following reasons:

E-bikes must continue to be treated as motor vehicles, not bicycles. New e-bikes are being developed now that will drive up to 55 mph. E-bikes must travel only where motor vehicles are allowed.

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

The proposed rule appears to set up conflicts with the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212 et seq).

Because of their speed and quiet nature, e-bikes can travel much farther into the backcountry, and startle and disturb wildlife over far greater distances. E-bikes also conflict with other nonmotorized trail users like 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, 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 this rule will do.

The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal

Thank you