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Organization:

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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule to open National Forest lands to e-bike use. I oppose opening up our National Forests to such use as I am concerned about the impact e-bikes will have. E-bikes should continue to be treated as motor vehicles as is warranted by their speeds and therefore should only be allowed to travel where motor vehicles are allowed. E-bikes speed and quiet nature could allow them to travel farther into the backcountry disturbing wildlife over much greater distances and also conflicting with non-motorized trail users such as horse back riders, hikers, and bicyclists. Our public lands already struggle with enforcement and I fear that increasing the use of e-bikes would lead to more trespass, illegal off-trail riding and trail development, and easier access and trespass into Wilderness areas. Already when I visit the National Forest close to my home I see a large amount off road and off-trail erosion and adding further vehicle use through e-bikes would only add to that challenge. Furthermore, e-bikes would have an impact on developed trails through erosion and the wild character of these lands would be threatened. I urge the Forest Service to withdraw this proposal.