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Comments: E-bikes that will drive up to 55 mph are being developed. They are more like motor vehicles than bicycles and should therefore be only allowed where motor vehicles are. 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).

Mountain biking poses a great threat to wildlands, wildlife, and Wilderness. Mountain bikes displace wildlife, and because they travel farther and faster than hikers or equestrians, they can impact a much greater area in the same amount of time. E-bikes can travel much farther into the backcountry in less time, and startle and disturb wildlife over far greater distances. E-bikes also conflict with nonmotorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists.

The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.