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Organization:

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Comments: I am an avid hiker and wilderness lover.

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

* Because of their speed, e-bikes conflict with nonmotorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists.

* Because of their speed, e-bikes can travel much farther into the backcountry, and startle and disturb wildlife over far greater distances

* New e-bikes are being developed that will drive up to 55 mph. E-bikes must continue to be treated as motor vehicles, not bicycles. E-bikes must be limited to 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).

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

* Currently, there is almost no enforcement for trespass, illegal off-trail riding, and illegal trail development by the biking community. E-bikes would compound this problem, further degrading the wild character of these lands. This is unacceptable!

The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.