

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2020 2:38:01 PM

First name: Constance

Last name: Pepin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Forest Service should withdraw their proposed rule to open up my National Forest lands to additional e-bike use. This rule would cause likely environmental impacts that should be fully evaluated through an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

E-bikes are motor vehicles, not bicycles, and should travel only where motor vehicles are allowed. New e-bikes will reach speeds up to 55 mph. The proposed rule conflicts with the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule.

E-bikes conflict with other non-motorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists. E-bikes can travel much farther into the backcountry, and would startle and disturb wildlife over far greater distances.

Illegal off-trail riding, and illegal trail development by some e-bikers would 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.

I urge you to withdraw this proposed rule to open up my National Forest lands to additional e-bike use.