

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2020 6:33:40 PM

First name: Anthony

Last name: Walsh

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the NFS's proposed rule to open up National Forest lands to additional e-bike use. I believe that E-bikes must continue to be treated as motor vehicles, not bicycles. New technologies being developed will only increase the impact to the trails and surrounding areas. 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). Additionally 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 non-motorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists.

The National Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.