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

New e-bikes are being developed that will drive up to 55 mph. How many injuries to hikers does that translate to? Will those injured be suing just those who hit them or also the US Forest Service for setting up the situation for this to happen? When a horse kicks an e-bike off the trail, who will they be suing?

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 disturb even more wildlife.

Because there is almost no enforcement now for trespass, illegal off-trail riding, and illegal trail development by some bikers, e-bikes will increasingly trespass into Wilderness and other protected areas with no consequences. This illegal use will degrade the wild character of these lands and irritate the heck out of me.

The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.