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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I believe the Forest Service should completely withdraw the E-Bikes proposed rule.

I oppose this rule to open up my National Forest lands to additional e-bike use because of these reasons:

*E-bikes must continue to be treated as motor vehicles, not bicycles. New e-bikes are being developed now that will drive up to 55 mph. E-bikes must travel only where motor vehicles are allowed. After all, they aren't allowed on sidewalks like bicycles.

*This proposed rule suggests likely environmental impacts that need to be fully evaluated through an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

*The proposed rule appears to set up conflicts with the Forest Service's very own 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 nonmotorized trail users like hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists.

*Most importantly - 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 should not be encouraged as this rule will do.

The Forest Service should withdraw this proposal.