

E-Bikes on WDFW-managed Lands

Joel Sisolak

Lands Planning and Recreation Section Manager
Wildlife Program



Presentation Overview

- E-bicycle definition
- Review e-bike rules/policies of other land managers
- Near-term management
- Longer-term process
- Q&A



Electric Bicycle Definition

An electric bicycle or “e-bike” is a bicycle with two or three wheels, a saddle, fully operative pedals for human propulsion, and an electric motor. If the wattage exceeds 750, it is no longer classified as a bicycle, but instead as a motor vehicle for the purposes of consumer protection

FRONT HUB MOTOR



REAR HUB MOTOR



MID-DRIVE MOTOR



Classifications

Class 1 A bicycle equipped with a motor that assists only when the rider pedals and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

Class 2 A bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that stops assisting when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

Class 3 A bicycle equipped with a motor that assists only when the rider pedals, ceases to assist when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour, and is equipped with a speedometer.



Impact Concerns

Ability to go farther, higher, faster than non-motorized bicycles could mean:

- More users farther afield
- Potential impacts with other users

Currently, there is limited data on impacts on wildlife and habitat.



DOI Secretary Order 3376

- authorizes the use of low-speed e-bikes (less than 750 watts and less than 20 miles/hour) on trails and paths where traditional bicycles are allowed
- directs FWS, NPS, BLM and BOR to do rule update to be consistent with the order
- NOT self-executing
- Limited impact on NPS and FWS
- BLM, BOR in rulemaking



Bureau of Land Management

- Final Rule published in Oct 2020
- Adopts definition and classifications
- Gives local managers authority to determine where to allow following NEPA review



Bureau of Reclamation

- Similar to BLM gives regional managers discretion



USDA Forest Service

- Proposed guidance under review
- Adopts classifications
- Key difference: defines e-bikes as motorized vehicle



Washington SB 6434

- Passed in 2018
- Adopts definition and classifications
- If local jurisdiction doesn't address, default to allow Class 1 and 2 where bikes allowed
- Not allowed on designated non-motorized with natural surface (no added surfacing material)
- Label required with classification, top speed, wattage



Department of Natural Resources

- Considers e-bikes motorized vehicles
- only on roads and trails that allow ORVs
- North Mountain pilot with EMBA



Washington State Parks

- Allow Class 1 and 3 on trails where nonmotorized bikes are allowed
- No formal process



WDFW – Near Term Management

- Allow e-bikes where motorized vehicles are allowed
- Do not allow on designated non-motorized with natural surface (with very limited exceptions)*

*consistent with SB 6434



WDFW – Longer Term Process

- Complete scan of local regulations and processes
- Gather input across WDFW programs, including Enforcement, on potential challenges and opportunities with managing e-bikes on WDFW-managed lands
- Discuss the potential impacts and benefits of e-bikes with Tribal, state and federal government partners in Washington
- Gather input from stakeholders, including motorized and non-motorized trail users and hunting groups.
- Develop e-bike policy and rules (statewide and/or site-based), if needed.



Questions?

