



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Washington D.C. 20240



## **DIRECTOR'S ORDER NO.: 222**

**Subject:** Establishment of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Policy for Electric Bicycle Use on National Wildlife Refuge System Lands

**Sec. 1 What is the purpose of this Order?** This Order establishes U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) policy for low-speed electric bicycle (e-bike) use in the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) as directed by [Secretary's Order No. 3376](#). The intent of this policy is to allow visitors to use e-bikes for transportation and recreation in a similar manner to traditional bicycles.

**Sec. 2 What are e-bikes?** E-bikes:

a. Are "low-speed electric bicycles" as defined by [15 U.S.C. 2085](#) and falling within one of the following classifications:

- (1) "Class 1 electric bicycle" is an e-bike equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour (m.p.h.).
- (2) "Class 2 electric bicycle" is an e-bike equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 m.p.h.
- (3) "Class 3 electric bicycle" is an e-bike equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 m.p.h.

b. Are not considered off-road vehicles or motor vehicles if they meet the description in [Sec. 2.a](#) above.

**Sec. 3 What is the scope of this Order?** This Order applies to e-bike use on National Wildlife Refuges and other NWRS sites.

**Sec. 4 What are the requirements of this Order?**

a. Refuge Managers/Project Leaders and other NWRS personnel shall:

(1) Allow e-bikes, as defined in [Sec. 2.a](#), operated in the pedal assist mode where traditional bicycles are allowed.

(2) Not allow e-bikes where traditional bicycles are prohibited, including in wilderness areas (see [16 U.S.C. 1133](#)).

b. Refuge Managers/Project Leaders must also ensure any existing or proposed bicycle and e-bike use by the public on their duty stations is appropriate and compatible with the purpose of the NWRS unit.

c. If a Refuge Manager/Project Leader determines bicycle/e-bike use to be inappropriate, incompatible, or a risk to public health and safety, he/she must:

(1) Notify the Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System through his/her chain of command, and

(2) Notify the public through one or more of the methods listed in [50 CFR 25.31](#).

d. E-bike operators must comply with all state and Federal traffic laws and regulations.

**Sec. 5 What is the authority for this Order?** The authority for this Order is [Secretary's Order No. 3376](#), Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the Use of Electric Bikes; August 29, 2019.

**Sec. 6 When is this Order effective?** This Order is effective immediately. It remains in effect until we incorporate it into Part 632, Non-Wildlife Oriented Recreation, of the Fish and Wildlife Service Manual or until we amend, extend, supersede, or revoke it, whichever comes first.

/sgd/ Margaret Everson  
PRINCIPAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Date: October 17, 2019