



Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form (CE Form)

Project: 2020 Denali National Park and Preserve e-bike addition to Superintendent's Compendium

PEPC Project Number: 94717

Description of Action (Project Description):

This compliance addresses regulations regarding e-bikes in the 2020 Denali National Park and Preserve Superintendent's Compendium. On August 30, 2019, NPS policy memorandum 19-01 announced a new electric bicycle (e-bike) policy for national park units, which expanded recreational opportunities and accessibility. This policy memorandum was issued based on the issuance of a Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretarial Order 3376.

The compendium changes related to e-bikes involve 36 CFR 13.50: Closures and restrictions, National Park System Units in Alaska. These changes would allow the use of e-bikes (defined as a two- or three-wheeled cycle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts) on park roads, parking areas, and trails that are open to traditional bicycles. The Denali Park Road and the Bicycle Trail are among those areas in Denali National Park and Preserve where e-bikes will be allowed. Thus, e-bikes will be allowed on durable surfaces where traditional bicycles and/or motorized vehicle traffic is already present.

Because e-bikes will be allowed on durable surfaces where traditional bicycles and/or motorized vehicle traffic is already present, e-bike use is not anticipated to have additional environmental impacts, or impacts of a substantially different nature than those resulting from existing bicycle and motor vehicle use.

A public comment period regarding proposed changes to the compendium was open from January 15, 2020 - February 15, 2020. In addition to the final 2020 compendium, a summary of substantive comments and responses to those comments is attached.

Decision: I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Based on this analysis, I hereby confirm and re-designate the continued use of e-bikes on park areas where bikes are currently allowed under my authority in 36 CFR 1.5(a)(2). Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

Project Locations:

Location

County:	Denali Borough	State:	AK
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Mitigation(s):

- Should future unanticipated impacts occur as a result of this action regarding public health and safety, natural and cultural resource protection, and / or other management activities and objectives, management will reevaluate use and / or activity restrictions.
- The park will monitor reported accidents and user conflicts of e-bikes and other users and propose mitigations if necessary.

CE Citation: D.3 Minor changes in programs and regulations pertaining to visitor activities.

CE Justification:

Denali National Park and Preserve proposed to allow e-bike use on park roads, parking lots, and trails where traditional bikes are allowed. E-bike use is anticipated to be similar to existing road, touring and mountain-bike use of these areas. The park has analyzed the environmental impacts of e-bike use in the park and is reaffirming e-bike use and the decision to allow e-bikes in the areas described above. Bicycles, including e-bike use on designated roads within Denali is consistent with the protection of the natural, scenic and aesthetic values, safety considerations and management objectives and will not have an adverse impact to wildlife or other park resources. This change in regulation makes a small change to the kinds of visitor activities allowed in specified areas of the park by adding the use of e-bikes on park roads, parking areas, and trails where traditional bicycles are allowed. Because e-bikes will only be allowed on durable surfaces where traditional bicycles and/or motorized vehicles are already allowed, this represents a small change to visitor activities. Except for having a small electric motor to assist the rider, e-bikes are generally operated like conventional bicycles, so the change to existing park regulations to allow e-bike use is not expected to result in significant impacts. The environmental impacts from this minor change are not anticipated to be greater than or different from the impacts from traditional bicycle use.

Decision: I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

Signature

Superintendent: _____ **Date:** _____

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Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	Visitors using e-bikes, like all visitors recreating in national parks, are expected to recognize and mitigate the risks to themselves that they assume while recreating. Traditional bicycle use on the Denali Park Road is common, and the restricted traffic on the majority of the Park Road is trained and familiar with sharing the road with bicyclists. Although research on e-bikes and safety varies, no scientific literature indicates a potential for significant impacts.
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	No	Since E-bikes would be permitted on areas that are already allowing traditional bicycle use, and no substantial increase in overall bike use is expected, there would be no adverse effect on natural or cultural resources.
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	There is no evidence that e-bike use presents the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts.
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	There is no scientific evidence that e-bike use presents the potential for uncertain or significant adverse environmental impacts or risks.
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	Allowing e-bike use would not contribute to the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts or lead to future actions with significant impacts.
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	E-bike use would not contribute to cumulative effects because there are no pending park actions that would contribute to or increase impacts associated with bicycle use on roads, parking lots, and trails.
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?	No	E-bike use would not significantly impact properties on the National Register of Historic Places, nor would it produce impacts greater than or different from the impacts from traditional bicycle use on historic places.
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	No	There are no threatened or endangered species in Denali National Park and Preserve.
I. Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	E-bike use would not violate other laws or requirements for protection of the environment.
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	E-bike use would not have a disproportionate adverse effect on low income or minority populations.

<p>K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>E-bike use would not limit access to sacred sites or ceremonial use of these sites. Designated roads are not in areas with known sacred sites.</p>
<p>L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>E-bikes are proposed for use in areas where traditional bicycles are allowed; invasive species would not likely be altered by e-bike use.</p>