

36 CFR § 4.30 - Bicycles

(a) Park roads. The use of a [bicycle](#) is [permitted](#) on [park roads](#) and in parking areas that are otherwise open for [motor vehicle](#) use by the general public.

(b) Administrative roads. Administrative roads are roads that are closed to [motor vehicle](#) use by the public, but open to [motor vehicle](#) use for administrative purposes. The [superintendent](#) may authorize [bicycle](#) use on an administrative road. Before authorizing [bicycle](#) use on an administrative road the [superintendent](#) must:

(1) Make a written determination that such [bicycle](#) use is consistent with protection of the [park area](#)'s natural, scenic and aesthetic values, safety considerations and management objectives, and will not disturb [wildlife](#) or park resources; and

(2) Notify the public through one or more methods listed in [§ 1.7\(a\)](#) of this chapter.

(c) [Reserved]

(d) Existing trails. The [superintendent](#) may authorize by designation [bicycle](#) use on a hiking or horse trail that currently exists on the ground and does not require any construction or significant modification to accommodate bicycles. Before doing so, the [superintendent](#) must ensure that all of the following requirements have been satisfied:

(1) The [superintendent](#) must complete a park planning document that addresses [bicycle](#) use on the specific trail and that includes an evaluation of:

(i) The suitability of the trail surface and soil conditions for accommodating [bicycle](#) use. The evaluation must include any maintenance, minor rehabilitation or armoring that is necessary to upgrade the trail to sustainable condition; and

(ii) Life cycle maintenance costs, safety considerations, methods to prevent or minimize user conflict, methods to protect natural and [cultural resources](#) and mitigate impacts, and integration with commercial [services](#) and alternative transportation systems (if applicable).

(2) The [superintendent](#) must complete either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) evaluating the effects of [bicycle](#) use in the park and on the specific trail. The [superintendent](#) must provide the public with notice of the availability of the EA and at least 30 days to review and comment on an EA completed under this section.

(3) The [superintendent](#) must complete a written determination stating that the addition of [bicycle](#) use on the existing hiking or horse trail is consistent with the protection of the [park area](#)'s natural, scenic and aesthetic values, safety considerations and management objectives, and will not disturb [wildlife](#) or park resources.

(4)

(i) If under [paragraph \(d\)\(2\)](#) of this section, the resulting Finding of No Significant Impact, Record of Decision (ROD), or an amended ROD concludes that [bicycle](#) use on the specific trail will have no significant impacts, the [superintendent](#) must publish a notice in the Federal Register providing the public at least 30 days to review and comment on the written determination required by [paragraph \(d\)\(3\)](#) of

this section. After consideration of the comments submitted, the [superintendent](#) must obtain the [Regional Director](#)'s written approval of the determination required by [paragraph \(d\)\(3\)](#) of this section; or

(ii) If under [paragraph \(d\)\(2\)](#) of this section, the conclusion is that [bicycle](#) use on the specific trail may have a significant impact, the [superintendent](#) with the concurrence of the [Regional Director](#) must complete a concise written statement for inclusion in the project files that [bicycle](#) use cannot be authorized on the specific trail.

(e) New trails. This paragraph applies to new trails that do not exist on the ground and therefore would require trail construction activities (such as clearing brush, cutting trees, excavation, or surface treatment). New trails shall be developed and constructed in accordance with appropriate NPS sustainable trail design principles and guidelines. The [superintendent](#) may develop, construct, and authorize new trails for [bicycle](#) use after:

(1) In a [developed area](#), the [superintendent](#) completes the requirements in paragraphs (d)(1) through (d)(3) of this section, publishes a notice in the Federal Register providing the public at least 30 days to review and comment on the written determination required by [paragraph \(d\)\(3\)](#) of this section, and after consideration of the comments submitted, obtains the [Regional Director](#)'s written approval of the determination required by [paragraph \(d\)\(3\)](#) of this section; or

(2) Outside of a [developed area](#), the [superintendent](#) completes the requirements in paragraphs (d)(1), (2), and (3) of this section; obtains the [Regional Director](#)'s written approval of the determination required by [paragraph \(d\)\(3\)](#) of this section; and promulgates a special regulation authorizing the [bicycle](#) use.

(f) Closures and other use restrictions. A [superintendent](#) may limit or restrict or impose conditions on [bicycle](#) use or may close any [park road](#), parking area, administrative road, trail, or portion thereof to [bicycle](#) use, or terminate such condition, closure, limit or restriction after:

(1) Taking into consideration public health and safety, natural and [cultural resource](#) protection, and other management activities and objectives; and

(2) Notifying the public through one or more methods listed in [§ 1.7\(a\)](#) of this chapter.

(g) Other requirements.

(1) A [person](#) operating a [bicycle](#) on any [park road](#), parking area, administrative road or designated trail is subject to all sections of this part that apply to an [operator](#) of a [motor vehicle](#), except [§§ 4.4](#), 4.10, 4.11, 4.14, and 4.15.

(2) Unless specifically addressed by regulations in this chapter, the use of a [bicycle](#) within a [park area](#) is governed by [State law](#). [State law](#) concerning [bicycle](#) use that is now or may later be in effect is adopted and made a part of this section.

(h) Prohibited acts. The following are prohibited: (1) [Bicycle](#) riding off of [park roads](#) and parking areas, except on administrative roads and trails that have been authorized for [bicycle](#) use.

(2) Possessing a [bicycle](#) in a wilderness area established by Federal statute.

(3) Operating a [bicycle](#) during periods of low visibility, or while traveling through a tunnel, or between sunset and sunrise, without exhibiting on the [operator](#) or [bicycle](#) a white light or reflector that is visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a red light or reflector that is visible from at least 200 feet to the rear.

(4) Operating a [bicycle](#) abreast of another [bicycle](#) except where authorized by the [superintendent](#).

(5) Operating a [bicycle](#) while consuming an alcoholic beverage or [carrying](#) in hand an open container of an alcoholic beverage.

(6) Any violation of [State law](#) adopted by this section.

(i) *Electric bicycles.*

(1) The use of an [electric bicycle](#) may be allowed on park roads, parking areas, and administrative roads and trails that are otherwise open to bicycles. The [Superintendent](#) will designate the areas open to electric bicycles, or specific classes of electric bicycles, and notify the public pursuant to [36 CFR 1.7](#).

(2) The use of an [electric bicycle](#) is prohibited in locations not designated by the [Superintendent](#) under paragraph (i)(1) of this section.

(3) Except where use of [motor vehicles](#) by the public is allowed, using the electric motor exclusively to move an [electric bicycle](#) for an extended period of time without pedaling is prohibited.

(4) Possessing an [electric bicycle](#) in a wilderness area established by Federal statute is prohibited.

(5) A [person](#) operating or possessing an [electric bicycle](#) is subject to the following sections of this part that apply to bicycles: [§§ 4.12](#), 4.13, 4.20, 4.21, 4.22, 4.23, and 4.30(h)(3)-(5).

(6) Except as specified in this chapter, the use of an [electric bicycle](#) is governed by [State law](#), which is adopted and made a part of this section. Any act in violation of [State law](#) adopted by this paragraph is prohibited.

(7) [Superintendents](#) may limit or restrict or impose conditions on [electric bicycle](#) use, or may close any [park road](#), parking area, administrative road, trail, or portion thereof to such [electric bicycle](#) use, or terminate such condition, closure, limit or restriction after:

(i) Taking into consideration public health and safety, natural and [cultural resource](#) protection, and other management activities and objectives; and

(ii) Notifying the public through one or more methods listed in [36 CFR 1.7](#), including in the [superintendent's](#) compendium (or written compilation) of discretionary actions referred to in [36 CFR 1.7\(b\)](#).

[[77 FR 39937](#), July 6, 2012, as amended at [85 FR 69188](#), Nov. 2, 2020]