

WDFW and DNR Public Process on E-bike use Frequently Asked Questions

Why are the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) engaging in a public process around e-bike use?

Because of the growing interest in e-bikes, the limited research on their impacts (environmental and social), and public confusion stemming from divergent policies across public lands, the 2021 Washington State legislature passed [ESSB 5452](#) directing WDFW and DNR to engage stakeholders in a process to collect information related to e-bike use on natural surface trails and roads that are limited to non-motorized use. The information will assist in determining where e-bike operation may occur, and which classes of e-bikes are acceptable, on such roads and trails under the agencies' management. WDFW and DNR will also develop opportunities to improve awareness of applicable rules and trail etiquette among all classes of trail users.

WDFW and DNR will report findings from this process with recommendations to the Legislature by September 30, 2022.

How will input on e-bikes from the public be collected?

- The agencies will gather input from federally recognized tribes on impacts to tribal resources.
- Triangle Associates, a facilitation and mediation firm, will gather input on e-bike use from a variety of stakeholders between February 2022 and July 2022.
- Besides the tribes, input will be gathered from individuals with disabilities, representatives of natural resource conservation organizations, and representatives of outdoor recreation interests, including horseback riding, traditional and electric-assisted mountain biking, hiking, and hunting.
- The process to gather input will include:
 - Interviews with representatives of the above-listed interest groups
 - Involvement of a Focus Group identified after the individual interviews
 - Facilitated listening sessions with each interest group
 - Webpages on WDFW's and DNR's websites with surveys to gather input from the public
 - Two public town hall meetings that will be held virtually on May 12th and May 18th

What other information will be collected?

- A literature review is being conducted that will look at issues related to e-bikes such as environmental impacts, social impacts and opportunities, accessibility, management implications, and technology
- Interviews with subject matter experts and other agency staff implementing a variety of e-bike policies
- Pilot programs introducing e-bikes to DNR lands and conducting follow-up surveys

Where are e-bikes currently allowed on WDFW and DNR managed lands?

WDFW allows the use of e-bikes on roads and trails open to motorized vehicles.

On DNR land, e-bikes are only allowed on forest roads and trails open to motorized public use.

Where can I get more information or get involved?

Please see the WDFW or DNR websites ([Electric-assisted bicycles on WDFW-managed lands | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#) or [E-bike Rules and Regulations | WA - DNR](#)) for more information, to understand how to be involved and to access the public survey.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Heide Andersen, *Recreation Planner*

Heide.Andersen@dfw.wa.gov

Mobile: 360-584-7342

Department of Natural Resources

Sam Hensold *Acting Statewide Recreation Manager*

sam.hensold@dnr.wa.gov,

Website: <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/ebikes>

Triangle Associates

Thomas Christian, Manager,

tchristian@triangleassociates.com