



Electric Assist Bicycles on Free Group Rides

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Policy for Free Group Rides:

Riders with e-bikes are welcome on Free Group Rides at paces Brisk (16-18 mph) and slower and on Self-Paced rides, subject to the conditions and restrictions enumerated below.

E-motos, scooters, and electric gliders are not permitted on Cascade's Free Group Rides.

Since state and local laws regulate where each class of e-bike may legally ride, all e-bike riders are personally responsible for ascertaining the legality of riding their e-bike on a Cascade Club group ride. If the route uses trails or paths where state or local regulations prohibit the use of certain classes of e-bikes, it is the responsibility of the rider to comply with the requirements for their specific equipment. Free Group Ride Leaders are not responsible for enforcing e-bike restrictions.

In general:

1. Class 1 e-bikes are permitted on multi-use trails.
2. Class 2 e-bikes are permitted on most multi-use trails. Class 2 e-bikes are prohibited on dirt trails labeled as "non-motorized only". (For example, Class 2 e-bikes are prohibited on Washington State Park thru-trails, such as the Palouse to Cascades Trail.)
3. Class 3 e-bikes are restricted from many multi-use trails where viable alternatives to the trail exist.
4. Class 3 e-bikes are permitted on multi-use trails adjacent to state highways (For example the state route 520 trail and the I-90 trail across Lake Washington.)
5. E-bikes are not allowed on paths where signage prohibits their use. (For example, the Green Lake walking path.)
6. **ALL cyclists must adhere to posted trail speed limits.**
7. The e-bike rider agrees to follow all the customary rider courtesy and safety requirements expected of riders using standard non-assisted bicycles.
8. The use of an e-bike on streets, trails, paths and sidewalks according to specific local rules, regulations and signage is the responsibility of the rider of the e-bike and not the responsibility of Cascade Bicycle Club or the Ride Leader of that particular ride. The

Ride Leader will have no obligation to a rider who departs the ride if it encounters a section unauthorized for e-bikes.

9. If the use of an e-bike is inappropriate on a specific ride due to terrain, required turning radius, bike carry requirements, bike parking limitations, or any other issue, the Ride Leader will make that decision and list in their ride description why their route is not recommended for e-bikes.

NOTE: E-bikes are not allowed on Vigorous (18-20mph) or faster-paced Free Group Rides because the speed, physical exertion required and group riding dynamic of these faster-paced rides are inconsistent with most e-bike riding characteristics.

Background:

Electric assist bicycles (e-bikes) have become more commonplace and expand the opportunity for more people to ride outdoors. The Club promotes the use of e-bikes as they offer more mobility to many, decrease dependency on automobiles and fossil fuels, and provide a solution to Seattle's hilly topography for bike commuters. More people on bikes create more demand for safe bicycle infrastructure, and this demand helps promote the Club's advocacy goals. This revised policy seeks to accommodate as many e-bikes as possible on Free Group Rides. In general, Class 3 e-bikes may be prohibited on many multi-use trails.

RCW e-bike definitions:

"Electric-assisted bicycle" (e-bike) means a bicycle with two or three wheels, a saddle, fully operative pedals for human propulsion, and an electric motor. The e-bike's electric motor must have a power output of no more than 750 watts and must qualify as one of the following classes of bicycle:

- "Class 1 electric-assisted bicycle": has a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and stops providing assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour (mph).
- "Class 2 electric-assisted bicycle": has a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle and stops providing assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 mph.
- "Class 3 electric-assisted bicycle": has a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that stops providing assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 28 mph, and is equipped with a speedometer.

"Electric-assisted bicycle" does not include:

- any vehicle capable of exceeding 20 mph on solely its electric motor; or
- any vehicle that is designed, manufactured, or intended by the manufacturer or seller to be easily configured to not meet the requirements of an e-bike.

"Electric motorcycle" means a motorcycle that uses propulsion units powered solely by electricity, and which meets one or more of the following criteria:

- It is not equipped with fully operable pedals capable of propelling it (foot pegs are not considered pedals).
- It has a motor with a power output that exceeds 750 watts.
- It has a motor that provides exclusive electric assist to propel the vehicle over a speed of 20 mph.
- It has a motor that continues to provide assistance when the vehicle reaches a speed greater than 28 mph.

Reference

<https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2025-26/Htm/Bill%20Reports/House/2374%20HBR%20TR%2026.htm>

The data below is for our procedures

For FGR Posting, add to “What to know before you go”

“E-bikes are welcome on Brisk and slower paced rides. E-bike riders are responsible for adhering to all state or local restrictions.” (add our ebike policy link)