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