



Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form (CE Form)

Project: 2020 Proposed Changes Regarding E-bikes to Kenai Fjords NP Superintendent's Compendium

PEPC Project Number: 94844

Description of Action (Project Description):

This categorical exclusion addresses the 2020 proposed changes to the Kenai Fjords National Park (KEFJ) Superintendent's Compendium regarding e-bikes only. Other proposed changes have been addressed separately.

This categorical exclusion (CE) addresses regulations regarding e-bikes in the 2020 Kenai Fjords National Park 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 will 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 and parking areas that are open to traditional bicycles. Thus, e-bikes will be allowed on durable surfaces where traditional bicycles and/or motorized vehicle traffic is already present. The Herman Leirer Road, and the Exit Glacier parking lot are among those areas in Kenai Fjords National Park where e-bikes will be allowed. E-bikes are prohibited where traditional bicycles are prohibited.

E-bikes are not presently widely used in Kenai Fjords National Park. E-bike use is not anticipated to have additional social or environmental impacts or impacts of a substantially different nature than those resulting from existing bicycle and motor vehicle use in these areas. If technology, trends, or potential for social and environmental impacts change, the authorization will be re-evaluated.

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.

Project Locations:

Location

County: Kenai Peninsula Borough **State:** AK

There are no required mitigations identified.

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

CE Justification:

Kenai Fjords National Park proposed to allow e-bike use of the above-named road and parking lot. 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 Kenai Fjords National Park 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. 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. Speeds of allowed e-bikes are comparable to classic traditional bicycles and are not expected to increase overall use or visitation. In general, e-bike use would increase the diversity of the types of bikes used in parks and may allow for less fit or impaired individuals to ride in some areas.

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:

4-16-2020

Eric Veach

Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	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	Not applicable
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	No significant impacts are anticipated on Endangered or Threatened Species or Critical Habitat in Kenai Fjords National Park.
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.
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 13007)?	No	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.
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)?	No	E-bikes are proposed for use in areas where traditional bicycles are allowed; additional invasive species spread is anticipated to be negligible.