

NEW MEXICO'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW



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NEW MEXICO'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR THE ROAD

- » Electric bicycles are regulated like bicycles. The same rules of the road apply to both electric bicycles and human-powered bicycles.
- » Electric bicycles are not subject to the same registration, licensing, and insurance requirements that apply to motor vehicles.
- » As of 2023, New Mexico designated three classes of electric bicycle:
 - Class 1: Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the electric bicycle reaches 20 mph
 - Class 2: Bicycle equipped with a throttle-actuated motor, that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches 20 mph.

Class 3: Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the electric bicycle reaches 28 mph

- » Class 1 electric bicycles may ride on a bicycle path or shared path where bicycles are permitted. Cities and towns may allow Class 2 and Class 3 electric bicycles to do the same.
- » The minimum operator age is 16 years for a Class 3 electric bicycle.

*The following New Mexico laws are referenced: N.M. Stat. SB 69 (2023).

eMTB GUIDELINES

- » On federal, state, country and local trails, electric mountain bike (eMTB) access varies significantly.
- » Generally, any natural surface trail that is designated as open to both motorized and non-motorized uses is also open to eMTBs.
- » eMTBs may not be allowed on trails managed for non-motorized activities.
- » Do not ride your eMTB in areas where the local rules are unclear. Ride legally and only on authorized trails to show that mountain bikers are responsible trail users.
- » When in doubt, ask your local land manager about access to specific trails. Local land rules change frequently.

NEW MEXICO'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR TRAILS

- » LOCAL: Consult your local land management agency.
- » STATE: The New Mexico State Parks considers electric bicycles motorized and does not allow their use on non-motorized trails. Contact the department for the most up to date information. PeopleForBikes is monitoring this policy and will update this document as needed.
- » FEDERAL: On federal lands, eMTBs are considered motorized vehicle and have access to motorized trails. Contact the U.S. Forest Service Southwestern Regional Office or the BLM New Mexico State Office for more information.

CHECK OUT

- » A map of great eMTB rides at peopleforbikes.org/emtb
- » eMTB "Adventures" at peopleforbikes.org/electric-bikes

GREAT eMTB RIDES IN NEW MEXICO

- » **Rim Trail**
La Luz | 19 miles
- » **North Cedro Singletrack**
Albuquerque | 18 miles

With an electric bicycle, bicyclists can ride more often, farther, and for more trips.

Electric bicycles are designed to be as safe as traditional bicycles, do not compromise consumer safety, and benefit bicyclists who may be discouraged from riding a traditional bicycle due to limited physical fitness, age, disability or convenience.

In many states, electric bicycles are regulated under antiquated laws primarily aimed at combustion engine vehicles such as mopeds or scooters. PeopleForBikes is clarifying state laws governing the use of electric bicycles in the U.S. Every state's law is different, but the objective is to ensure that low-speed electric bicycles are regulated similarly to traditional, human-powered bicycles.



Learn more at PeopleForBikes.org/electric-bikes

- » Blogs and webinars
- » Electric bicycle laws around the country
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