



OREGON E-BIKE RIGHTS:  
A Legal Guide  
for  
Electric Bike Riders

by  
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## PREFACE

This booklet about Oregon electric bicycle law is the fourth in our series of Oregon law guides. The first, “Pedal Power: A Legal Guide For Oregon Bicyclists” was published in 2000 and is now in its eighth edition. That book has been widely distributed to riders, libraries, law enforcement, lawyers and has provided the textbook for the regular “Bicycle Rights Legal Clinics” conducted statewide by the lawyers in our office.

It was our intention that “Pedal Power” serve as a law and advocacy reference to help build Oregon's bicycle movement and advance knowledge of Oregon law for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists. Six years later in 2006 we produced “Action Pamphlet #1, A Do It Yourself Guide to Ticketing Bad Drivers, Citizen Initiation of Violation Proceedings” to provide a how-to guide to traffic court enforcement actions by private citizens. Then in 2008 our walking rights legal guide “Oregon Pedestrian Rights: A Legal Guide For Persons On Foot” was published. It contained Oregon laws as well as historic and legal analysis of the politics of the pedestrian right to a legal presence on the public way. It is being revised and re-issued in 2018 as a second edition.

Now we are pleased to issue “Oregon E-Bike Rights: A Legal Guide for Electric Bike Riders.” “E-bikes” are appearing on Oregon roads, paths and sidewalks in greater numbers, and federal, state and local authorities are of several minds about what to do with them. Sometimes treated by law as a bicycle, sometimes as a motor vehicle, the bicycle with a battery powered electric motor has created a legal hybrid that defies easy and logical categorization. The Oregon Vehicle Code defines a low-powered “electric assisted bicycle” to be a bicycle, not a motor vehicle, but then also prohibits it from being lawfully ridden on sidewalks statewide. Oregon State Parks rules define the electric powered bicycle as a motor vehicle and restrict its operation to motor vehicle routes.

E-bike law in Oregon and elsewhere is very much a moving target. Efforts to amend state and federal laws to reclassify electric bicycles and allow wider access are presently underway, with several campaigns pending at this time. We

support many of these efforts to reform state and federal park rules to allow e-bikes broader access to trails and beaches. For many riders an electric bicycle creates opportunities to travel places that would be unreachable on a regular bicycle because of advancing age, injury or other physical limitations. The battery operated electric motor provides these opportunities without the power, noise, erosion and pollution associated with gasoline-powered engines. It is time for the laws to create a more hospitable legal environment for electric bicycle operators and coordinate the use of legal terminology and rules at the local, state and federal level to reduce presently existing confusion about where e-bikes can and cannot legally go.

This book was truly a team effort. Cynthia Newton, Chris Thomas, Jim Coon and Ray Thomas all participated in the research and writing, and we thank Janet Towle for helping us with the layout and legal resources sections.

## I. WHO RIDES E-BIKES?

Short answer – folks in China. The vast majority of e-bikes on the planet are sold domestically in China – over 31 million in 2016, as compared with just 3.3 million sold in the rest of the world altogether. Market saturation and restrictions on use in major Chinese cities are expected to flatten China’s e-bike growth while the rest of the world’s purchases increase, but China is still projected to sell five times as many e-bikes to its citizens (about 30 million) as the rest of the world does (about six million) by 2025.<sup>1</sup> E-bikes are 27% of the total Dutch bicycle market, 16% in Germany, 7% in Japan and barely 1% in the U.S., where e-bike sales tend to rise with gas prices. Nevertheless, with an aging population and improved battery technology, American e-bike market share is projected to continue growing. This is doubtless true in Oregon, as graying Boomer cyclists reluctantly admit they could use a little help.

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<sup>1</sup> “Electric Bicycles,” Navigant Research (Q2 2016) accessed June 4, 2018 at <https://www.pedegoelectricbikes.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/MF-EBIKE-16-Executive-Summary-w-Pedego.pdf>

## II. WHAT IS AN E-BIKE UNDER THE LAW?

### A. The Oregon Vehicle Code

Oregon law defines an “electric assisted bicycle” as a vehicle

- designed to run on the ground
- on no more than three wheels
- with fully operational pedals for human propulsion
- with a seat for the rider
- with an electric motor that
  - has power output no more than 1,000 watts
  - can propel the vehicle no faster than 20mph on level ground

ORS 801.258. The law has been around since 1997, but no appellate court has had occasion to say what it means. Running “on the ground?” No problem. On three wheels or fewer? That’s pretty clear. With a seat and pedals for human propulsion? So far it’s just a bicycle. ORS 801.150. But of course the electric motor is the interesting part.

#### 1. A Thousand Watts

Also known as a *kilowatt*, a thousand watts is a little more than one horsepower, about the power output of a microwave oven or a toaster, or the power the sun delivers to a square meter of earth on a nice day. Of course there’s not much you can do about it other than read what it says on the bike and trust the manufacturer to tell you how many watts the motor can generate.

#### 2. 20 MPH on Level Ground

The law doesn’t say whether the 20 mph limit is with a 98-lb jockey or a 300-lb offensive tackle on the seat. If speed is limited by an electronic governor rather than by the power of the

motor, it should make no difference how big the rider is. The controller cuts the power when the bike reaches 20 mph.

And do we count the added human power? What if the bike will do 20 mph under electric power alone but goes 30 mph when the rider pedals hard with the throttle full open? The Oregon statute says the *motor* must be “incapable of propelling the vehicle” faster than 20 mph. That suggests that your e-bike can go as fast as you can make it go, as long as the motor alone will do only 20 on a level surface. As a practical matter, with the motor cutting out at 20mph, you’re not likely to go a whole lot faster than that unless you’re headed downhill. Of course violating the speed limit is a separate question; here we’re just talking about whether your bike qualifies for treatment as an e-bike under Oregon law.

NOTE: The Oregon definition calls this an “electric-assisted bicycle,” which suggests, in e-bike parlance, that it’s a pedelec<sup>1</sup>. However, the definition itself doesn’t say it can’t be a “throttle-controlled” e-bike<sup>2</sup>, as long as it won’t go faster than 20 mph and has a 1000 watt motor or smaller. Oregon courts read statutes literally when they can, so it’s likely that either a pedelec or a throttle bike can be an “e-bike” under Oregon law.

## **B. The Federal “Low Speed Electric Bicycle”**

State law controls most aspects of vehicle licensing and operation. But federal law adds safety requirements for motor vehicles as consumer products and limits use of powered vehicles on federal lands. The Consumer Product Safety Act defines “low-speed electric bicycle” as

a two- or three-wheeled vehicle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts (1 h.p.), whose maximum speed on a paved level surface, when powered

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<sup>2</sup> ‘Pedelec’ is an e-bike that applies power from the electric motor only when the rider pedals.

<sup>3</sup> ‘Throttle-controlled’ means the motor delivers power when the rider operates a throttle lever or other control, whether the rider pedals or not.

solely by such a motor while ridden by an operator who weighs 170 pounds, is less than 20 mph.

15 USC 2085(b). Most e-bikes you'll see for sale in bike shops will meet these requirements. Again, as with the Oregon definition, this could be a pedelec or a throttle-controlled e-bike, and the question is whether the motor alone will make the bike go more than 20 mph on a level surface.

### C. Other Motor Bikes: What Is NOT an E-bike Under Oregon Law?

Electric two-wheelers (and three-wheelers) with more power than the definition of "electric assisted bicycle" allows (more power than 1000 watts or faster than 20 mph) are not e-bikes under Oregon law. They include:

A **motor assisted scooter** has a motor that will make it go up to 24 mph on a level surface, with up to 1000 watts if the motor is electric and displacement up to 35 cc if it's a gasoline engine. ORS 801.348.

A **moped** is a vehicle "other than an electric assisted bicycle" that has a motor that will make it go up to 30 mph on a level surface and, if it's a gasoline engine, is no larger than 50cc, with no gear shifting. ORS 801.345. This creates a technical legal problem (see the definition of "motorcycle" below),

A **motorcycle** is defined as any self-propelled two or three-wheeled vehicle with a seat or saddle, "other than a moped or farm tractor":

"Motorcycle" means any self-propelled vehicle *other than a moped* or farm tractor that:

- (1) Has a seat or saddle for use of the rider;
- (2) Is designed to be operated on the ground upon wheels; and

(3) Is designed to travel with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground.

ORS 801.365.<sup>2</sup>

**D. What difference does the legal definition make?**

The point of having an e-bike that's within the definition of "electric assisted bicycle" is to be treated legally as a bicycle and not as a motor vehicle, thus avoiding DMV registration, licensing, insurance, and other requirements that apply only to motor vehicles.

When the Oregon Legislature first defined "electric assisted bicycle" in 1997, they also provided that an e-bike **"shall be considered a bicycle rather than a motor vehicle"** under the law. ORS 814.405. Of course Oregon law also provides that a bicycle "is a vehicle" under the vehicle code, with certain exceptions:

*(1) Every person riding a bicycle upon a public way is subject to the provisions applicable to and has the same rights and duties as the driver of any other vehicle concerning operating on highways, vehicle equipment and abandoned vehicles, except:*

(a) Those provisions which by their very nature can have no application.

(b) When otherwise specifically provided under the vehicle code.

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<sup>4</sup> Since a "motorcycle" is any self-propelled two-wheeler other than a moped, and a moped is defined not to include e-bikes, technically, e-bikes might be considered to be within the Oregon definition of "motorcycles," which would mean licensing, registration and helmets. In the unlikely event that Oregon tried to impose these requirements on e-bikes, the courts would probably hold that e-bikes, or at least pedelecs, aren't wholly "self-propelled" because they're designed to be pedaled by the rider.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section:

(a) A *bicycle is a vehicle* for purposes of the vehicle code; and

(b) When the term “vehicle” is used the term shall be deemed to be applicable to bicycles.

ORS 814.400 (emphasis added). So, on one hand, a 20-mph, 1000 watt e-bike is a bicycle, and, on the other hand, bicycles have the same rights and duties as any other vehicle unless the vehicle code specifically provides otherwise or unless “by their very nature,” the laws can’t apply to e-bikes (DEQ emissions testing, or the law against driving a motor vehicle in a bike lane, for example).

**E. When is a bicycle (including an e-bike) a “motor vehicle?”**

The Oregon Court of Appeals has considered the meaning of the “bicycle is a vehicle” statute only once, and its decision creates considerable uncertainty about when a bicycle, and therefore an e-bike, is or is not covered by the laws that apply to “motor vehicles.” The court held in *State v. Potter*, 185 Or. App. 81 (2002) that when a statute refers specifically to “motor vehicles,” it still covers bicycles because the legislature has not “specifically provided” that bicycles are not covered,<sup>3</sup> even though a “bicycle” is defined in the law as a vehicle “propelled exclusively by human power.” So the only motor vehicle laws that don't apply to bikes, including e-bikes, are those that “by their nature cannot apply” (like

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<sup>5</sup> The *Potter* court applied the statute prohibiting “impeding traffic,” ORS 811.130, to bicycles although it prohibits driving a “motor vehicle” so as to impede traffic. The court reasoned that the impeding traffic statute does not “specifically provide” that bicycles are not covered. That’s especially interesting because there *is* a statute that specifically covers when bicycles must ride as far to the right as they can and when they may ride in the traffic lane. *See* section III – “E-bike Rights on the Roadway.”

tailpipe emissions and equipment standards) or where the statute actually says “bicycles are exempt” (for example ORS 803.030(7) (title requirements) or ORS 811.405(2) (turn signals), or where the statute gives bicycles specific rights and responsibilities, like the right and the responsibility to be in a bike lane.

E-bikes will be subject to the same judicial analysis. If a statute says it applies to “motor vehicles,” and it doesn’t specifically say bicycles are excluded, e-bikes, like regular bikes, will be covered.

### III. E-BIKE RIGHTS ON THE ROADWAY

#### A. “Rider’s Bill of Rights”

What rights does an e-bike rider have on the roadway? The answer is “The same rights as a regular bicycle operator.” As above, ORS 814.405 provides: “An electric assisted bicycle shall be considered a bicycle, rather than a motor vehicle, for purposes of the Oregon Vehicle Code, except when otherwise specifically provided by statute.”

ORS 814.430, concerning “Improper Use of Lanes,” provides the basic collection of bike rights on the roadway; the statute is contained below with bold print explanations below each paragraph:

“1) A person commits the offense of improper use of lanes by a bicycle if the person is operating a bicycle on a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic using the roadway at that time and place under the existing conditions and the person does not ride as close as practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway.”

**This means that if the e-bike rider is able to maintain the “normal” speed of other traffic at the time, then the e-bike can use the entire roadway lane. But if the e-bike is going less than the normal speed of traffic then the rider must ride as close to the right curb or edge of the roadway as “practicable” which means a flexible standard that allows the rider to adjust position depending on conditions.**

“(2) A person is not in violation of the offense under this section if the person is not operating a bicycle as close as practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway under any of the following circumstances:”

**This section contains the exceptions to the general rule, allowing the e-bike rider to take up to the entire lane for the following reasons:**

“(a) When overtaking and passing another bicycle or vehicle that is proceeding in the same direction.”

**The e-bike may occupy the entire lane when passing a bike, car or bus.**

“(b) When preparing to execute a left turn.”

**E-bikes may move into the lane to make a left turn to avoid having to turn left from the right edge of roadway.**

“(c) When reasonably necessary to avoid hazardous conditions including, but not limited to, fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards or other conditions that make continued operation along the right curb or edge unsafe or to avoid unsafe operation in a lane on the roadway that is too narrow for a bicycle and vehicle to travel safely side by side. Nothing in this paragraph excuses the operator of a bicycle from the requirements under ORS 811.425 (Failure of slower driver to yield to overtaking vehicle) or from the penalties for failure to comply with those requirements.”

**E-bikes are legally excused from the “ride to the right” rule when any of the above conditions make it potentially unsafe to ride to the right.**

“(d) When operating within a city as near as practicable to the left curb or edge of a roadway that is designated to allow traffic to move in only one direction along the roadway. A bicycle that is operated under this paragraph is subject to the same requirements and exceptions when operating along the left curb or edge as are applicable when a bicycle is operating along the right curb or edge of the roadway.”

**On one-way roads the rider may ride as far as practicable to the right OR TO THE LEFT if proceeding at slower than the normal speed of traffic.**

“(e) When operating a bicycle alongside not more than one other bicycle as long as the bicycles are both being operated within a single lane and in a manner that does not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic.”

**Two riders may proceed side by side so long as other traffic may proceed. If other traffic is being “plugged” by the riders then they are required to proceed in single file until faster overtaking traffic can safely pass.**

“(f) When operating on a bicycle lane or bicycle path.”

**Indeed, the law *requires a cyclist to use a bicycle lane or path* if one is “adjacent to or near the roadway” ORS 814.420 (see exceptions below)**

While ORS 814.430 is called “Improper Use of Lanes” it is really the Rider’s Bill of Rights to the Roadway. Bicycle riders are given specific legal rights to either take the whole lane (when proceeding so as not to impede the normal speed of traffic) or to move further into the lane when necessary to avoid specific hazards.

## **B. E-Bike Rights on Sidewalks**

Unlike regular bikes, e-bikes cannot be used on the sidewalk in Oregon under state law. ORS 814.410(1)(c).<sup>4</sup> Regular

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<sup>6</sup> Note that e-bike advocates urge reform of this provision, arguing that it unnecessarily restricts use of e-bikes. A state legislative change would be necessary. People For Bikes, an industry-sponsored nonprofit, has distributed a "model e-bike law" that has been passed in eight states including Washington and California, and is separately discussed later in this legal guide. *See* subsection E, below. That model law would allow lower-powered e-bikes to use sidewalks.

The one exception to the Oregon prohibition on sidewalk e-bike use is for the disabled e-bike rider to apply to DMV to obtain a disabled person exception under federal ADA law allowing an exemption for a "power driven mobility device". So far only one Oregonian has successfully obtained such a permit, and this exemption was allowed only

bikes are allowed on sidewalks, subject to pedestrian right of way except where excluded by municipal ordinance. Local ordinances often exclude bicycles from sidewalks in the central downtown area, but allow bikes on sidewalks in the neighborhoods

**C. E-Bike Rights to Bike Lanes**

E-bikes are granted the same rights to bike lanes as regular bikes under ORS 814.405. ORS 811.050 provides that, in the bike lane e-bikes, like regular bikes have the right of way over motor vehicle traffic. (So do mopeds, electric personal assistive mobility device, motor assisted scooters and motorized wheelchairs.)

**D. E-bikes must use the bike lane if there is one.**

Oregon has a “mandatory sidepath law,” which requires cyclists, including e-bike riders, to use a bike lane “where a bicycle lane or bicycle path is adjacent to or near the roadway.” ORS 814.420. However, there are a number of reasons for which a cyclist, including an e-cyclist, may leave the bike lane, if it is safe to do so:

- (a) Overtaking and passing another bicycle, a vehicle or a pedestrian that is in the bicycle lane or path and passage cannot safely be made in the lane or path.
- (b) Preparing to execute a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway.
- (c) Avoiding debris or other hazardous conditions.
- (d) Preparing to execute a right turn where a right turn is authorized.

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for an electric driven recumbent bicycle. *See* <https://bikeportland.org/2018/02/19/chris-billman-is-the-only-oregonian-with-a-disabled-parking-decal-for-his-bicycle-268675>.]

(e) Continuing straight at an intersection where the bicycle lane or path is to the right of a lane from which a motor vehicle must turn right.

ORS 814.420.

### **E. Developing State Laws**

State laws governing the use of e-bikes vary widely. Some states, like Kentucky, treat e-bikes just like regular bikes, no matter how fast they go, as long as they have pedals. In some states, like New York, the law treats e-bikes as motorcycles subject to the same registration, licensing and insurance requirements as cars; there is no administrative mechanism to register or license them, so they're technically illegal, but, in practice, in New York City, you can ride a pedelec, but not a throttle bike. About half the states have no definition of an "electric bike."

People For Bikes,<sup>5</sup> an industry-sponsored nonprofit, is supporting a new system, enacted in eight states as of May, 2018, that divides e-bikes into three classes:

#### Class 1 electric bicycle

A bicycle 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.

#### Class 2 electric bicycle

A bicycle 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 miles per hour.

#### Class 3 electric bicycle

A bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide

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<sup>7</sup> <https://peopleforbikes.org/>

assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour, and is equipped with a speedometer.

Generally, only Class 1 and Class 2 electric bikes can use sidewalks and shared-use paths. *E.g.* RCW 46.61.710(3) in Washington. Other states have recently adopted other e-bike definitions, like North Carolina in 2016 (up to 750 watts, 20 mph) and Vermont (1000 watts, 20 mph with 170-lb rider), so national uniformity is not on the horizon.

#### IV. OFF-ROAD USE OF E-BIKES IN OREGON

##### A. E-Bikes on Shared-Use Paths

“Shared-Use paths” used to be called “bike paths,” then they were called “multi-use paths”. The new Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Design Guide (2011) sets forth design standards for bike and pedestrian facilities. It describes shared-use paths as used by “pedestrians, joggers, skaters, bicyclists and many others” and “can provide access and mobility to pedestrians and bicyclists in areas where the roads don’t serve their needs” (p. 7-1).

“Shared-use paths” are not defined in the Oregon Vehicle Code. There is therefore no state law against riding an e-bike on a shared-use path, and the classification of “electric assisted bikes” as bicycles rather than motor vehicles provides an argument for e-bike use on shared-use paths, as long as those paths are not within the definition of “sidewalk.”<sup>6</sup> Thus, for now, by omission, e-bikes are probably allowed on shared-use paths that are not part of the road right-of-way. In fact only one local government seems to have legislated a definition of “shared-use path,” – the City of Sherwood:

**Shared-use path: A facility for non-motorized access conforming to City standards and separated from the roadway, either in the roadway right-of-way, independent public right-of-way, or a public access easement. It is designed and constructed to allow for safe walking, biking, and other human-powered travel modes.**

Sherwood Oregon Code of Ordinances, Sec. 16.10.020. While e-bikes are not specifically mentioned, the use of “non-motorized”

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<sup>8</sup> Oregon law defines a “sidewalk” as the part of a public right of way between the outside of the shoulder or “the lateral line of the roadway and the adjacent property line capable of being used by a pedestrian.” ORS 801.485.

and “human-powered” suggests that a bike with any sort of motor is probably not permitted on a shared-use path in Sherwood.

## **B. E-Bike Use on State Park Trails**

The idea that an e-bike is a bike rather than a motor vehicle doesn’t apply in Oregon State Parks. Oregon Parks trails are governed by Oregon Administrative Rules which define “motorized vehicles” as “any vehicle being powered by an engine or motor which is capable of transporting a person.” OAR 736-010-0015(12). There is no exception for e-bikes, which have a motor and can transport a person, so e-bikes are treated like cars and motorcycles in Oregon State Parks, not like bikes. Regular bikes are referred to as “non-motorized cycles” or “wheeled operator-propelled equipment” and are restricted to park roads and trails, depending on posted signage. OAR 736-010-26.

The blanket prohibition against e-bikes on state park trails is imposed by OAR 736-010-0025(3) which restricts e-bike use in Oregon parks to roads or other “designated” areas (which do not include trails). This prohibition is viewed as unfair by e-bike riders with mobility issues that require the help of an electric motor, and by people who want to use their e-bikes to explore popular state parks.

In April 2018, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for a rule that would open wider trails (over 8 feet wide) and the ocean beach shore to e-bikes. *See*, <https://bikeportland.org/2018/04/10/oregon-begins-process-to-legalize-electric-assist-bikes-in-state-parks-274847>.

## V. E-BIKE USE ON FEDERAL LANDS

On federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) or US Forest Service (“USFS”) e-bikes are included within the definition of “off road vehicle” and “motorized vehicle.” The BLM definition of “off-road vehicle” is contained in 43 CFR 8340.5:

(a) Off-road vehicle means any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding: (1) any non-amphibious registered motorboat; (2) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes; (3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer, or otherwise officially approved; (4) vehicles in official use; and (5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.”

43 CFR 8340.5. E-bikes are allowed only on trails and in areas that are open to off-road motor vehicle use, and on the terms and conditions that apply to each designation of those trails by local land managers for that use. 43 CFR 8341.1 You can’t take your e-bike wherever you can take your regular bike. You can take it where you can take your motorcycle.

The same is true on Forest Service lands:

“Motor vehicle” means any vehicle which is self-propelled, other than:

- (1) A vehicle operated on rails; and
- (2) Any wheelchair or mobility device, including one that is battery-powered, that is designed solely for use by a mobility-impaired person for locomotion and that is suitable for use in an indoor pedestrian area.

36 CFR 212.1, 261.2. That makes it pretty clear that the only electrically powered vehicle allowed where motorized vehicles are

prohibited is an electric wheelchair. E-bikes are not “designed solely” for use by mobility-impaired folks, and they’re not suitable for indoor use. The agency said specifically in response to comments on a snow vehicle rule in 2015 that “New technologies that merge bicycles and motors, such as e-bikes, are considered motor vehicles under section 212.1 of the [Travel Management Rule].” 80 Fed Reg 4503 (Jan. 28, 2015).

When the Forest Service revised its Travel Management Rule in 2005, it rejected proposals that non-motorized bicycles be treated as motor vehicles, 70 Fed Reg 68264 at 68283. The considerations the agency found to distinguish bikes from motor vehicles were noise, speed, power, weight and tread width. Clearly some of these do, and some do not apply to e-bikes and depend on their power. There is some recent recognition in the agency that demand for use of e-bikes on federal lands may justify changing some of the rules as they apply to e-bikes, but the law for now on federal land is that e-bikes are treated as if they were motorcycles. In fact, the trail designations for trails on which e-bikes are allowed are roads and trails open to “all vehicles,” trails open to vehicles 50 inches or less wide and trails open to “motorcycles only.”<sup>7</sup>

As a practical matter, whether you can ride a particular trail on an e-bike is likely to depend on local information. Federal lands and private lands often share boundaries, and roads and trails can cross both, with inconsistent consequences for e-bike riders. While e-bikes are treated as motorcycles and therefore banned on most Forest Service singletrack trails, local private land managers may have other rules for timber land and other lands open to public recreation.<sup>8</sup> Check local websites and bike shops for up to

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<sup>9</sup> Recent treatment of e-bike access on federal lands is articulated in the US Forest Service Trail Management Letter of March 2016 which is included in this booklet as Appendix 2 and could be viewed as of June, 2018 at: [https://peopleforbikes.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2160324ElectricBikesAndTrailManagement\\_Final-Fed-2016-1.pdf](https://peopleforbikes.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2160324ElectricBikesAndTrailManagement_Final-Fed-2016-1.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> For example, singletrack is legal for e-bikes, though not for motorcycles, in privately-owned Skyline Forest (formerly Bull Springs

date information about trail closures and conditions. And, once you're there on the ground, watch for signage indicating whether trails and roads are open to e-bikes.

The treatment of e-bikes on federal lands as motorized vehicles is causing e-bike enthusiasts, trail user groups and disability rights advocates to put forth their views urging creation of a system that is fair to all, and protects the environment. Finding the most current version of the governing federal rules is important because use restrictions are being revised and reconsidered, particularly in light of the impact of the federal Americans with Disability Act (ADA). Note that the US Forest Service Letter of March 2016, referenced above in note 9, does not recognize an ADA right to use e-bikes on trails that would otherwise prohibit motorized vehicles.

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Tree Farm) near Bend for most of the year. Check local resources for an idea about the variability of trail openings and closures for various kinds of bikes.

## **VI. E-BIKE ACCESS TO CITY, COUNTY, AND PRIVATE TRAILS**

Use of e-bikes in city, county and private parks on trails is a different legal matter entirely. The Oregon Vehicle Code does not apply to trails, and the State of Oregon does not manage these areas so the rules for e-bike riding are up to the “responsible authorities”. Finding out who is responsible for riding rules is sometimes a challenge and it is best to check with local mountain bike and e-bike rider groups to find out the rules applied for a particular area.

It is beyond the scope of this legal guide to cover the individual Oregon recreation areas but the resource guide section will contain some helpful contacts. Signage at the site is helpful and important but not very useful when a person has to travel long distances before seeing that a particular place restricts e-bike access. Websites relevant to your destination may provide information as to particular trail restrictions. For example, the website for the “Olympic Discovery Trail,” running some 130 miles from Port Townsend, Washington to the Pacific says “E-Bikes” are allowed, though it does not specify which class of ebikes, under Washington’s three-class system, is intended.  
<https://olympicdiscoverytrail.org>.

## VII. E-BIKES AND INSURANCE

E-bike insurance raises many of the same issues as do the laws and regulations we've already discussed. Is an e-bike really a bike, or should it be treated as a motor vehicle? Or does it just fall through the cracks because it's neither fully a bike nor fully a motor vehicle? The difference between falling through the cracks in the law and falling through the cracks in insurance, however, is important: If the law doesn't cover you, you can do what you want (e.g. e-bikes on shared use paths); if insurance doesn't cover you, you're out of luck.

This is potentially even more important for e-bikes than for regular bikes because e-bikes are, as a group, more expensive, heavier and faster than regular bikes. When they get stolen or damaged in a crash, the property loss is greater. When you have a crash on an e-bike, you may cause more damage or suffer more injury than you might on a regular bike. Unfortunately, while bicycles have a well-established place in the insurance world, e-bikes still wander in the wilderness.

Insurance coverage depends on policy language. An insurance policy is a contract – you pay the premium, and the insurer covers your losses under the agreement between you. So, if you want to know what coverage you have for e-bike property loss, liability to others or injury to yourself, read your policy, or call your agent. Better yet, read your policy AND call your agent. But don't rely on what your agent tells you if it contradicts the policy language. The language of the policy controls your agreement with your insurer. ORS 742.016. The language of insurance policies in Oregon is construed against the insurer because the insurer wrote the policy language. Of course the insured individual did not negotiate the language of the policy, and usually had no idea what it said until after suffering or causing injury in a crash. If insurance policy language is ambiguous or unclear, Oregon courts will read it in favor of coverage. A lawyer can give you a pretty good idea what coverage you have, but most insurance policies were not written with e-bikes in mind, and the courts haven't yet weighed in on most policy provisions as they apply to e-bikes.

You can get insurance designed specifically for e-bikes<sup>9</sup>, but unless you do that, your e-bike coverage will be decided under the homeowner's, auto and umbrella policies you may already have.

### **A. Car Insurance**

If you drive a car in Oregon, you're required to have liability insurance coverage in the minimum amount of \$25,000 for liability for causing injury to a single person and \$50,000 for liability for causing injury to more than one person in a single crash. Any car insurance policy issued in Oregon must provide at least that amount of coverage for liability to others. ORS 806.070. The bad news is that auto insurance policies always require that, in order to be covered for liability to others, a car you own be listed as an insured vehicle. You might try to get your e-bike named as an insured vehicle on your auto policy, but we've never seen it.

Coverage for injury to yourself while riding your e-bike is more ambiguous. You might get coverage for Personal Injury Protection (PIP), which is no-fault compensation up to \$15,000 or \$25,000 for your medical expenses and wage loss, but that will depend on the policy language. Oregon law requires auto insurance policies to cover PIP for injuries to family members in your own vehicle or "pedestrians," which has been construed to include bicycle riders. ORS 742.520. No clear practice has yet developed as to whether that includes e-bike riders.

Oregon law also requires that auto insurance policies issued in the state provide "uninsured/underinsured motorist" (UM/UIM) coverage. ORS 742.502 That's coverage for injuries you might suffer in a collision with an uninsured motorist or with a motorist who has less coverage than you do. So, if you're injured in a crash with a car that has minimum policy limits (\$25/\$50,000), and you have higher limits, such as \$100/\$300,000, you can make a UIM claim against your own policy to cover your medical

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<sup>11</sup> Check out Velosurance.com. They insure only bikes, and they offer specific e-bike coverage if you conclude your auto and homeowners' insurance don't cover your e-bike.

expenses, wage loss and pain and suffering damages. The total amount available is your higher policy limit if the policy was last issued or renewed before January 1, 2016 or the total of your policy limit and the limit of the underinsured motorist if it was issued or renewed after that date. This coverage applies to regular bikes, and there's no reason it shouldn't apply to e-bikes as well.

**Note:** Higher policy limits are much less expensive than basic auto coverage, so it's worth checking out what you can afford. The basic \$25,000 limit can disappear on medical expenses with a couple of days in a hospital.

Coverage for property damage to your e-bike is unlikely to apply under a standard auto policy, because most policies cover only property damage to the "insured vehicle" but, as always, the language of your particular policy is the key.

### **B. Homeowner's or Renter's Insurance**

The most likely place (other than specific e-bike insurance) to find coverage for injury to you, injury you cause someone else or property damage to your e-bike is your homeowner's or renter's policy. Language to watch out for will be in the "Exclusions" and "Definitions" sections of the policy. Look for exclusion of coverage for injury or property damage caused by "motor vehicles" or "motorized vehicles," and read the "definitions" of these terms in the policy to see if it's clear whether e-bike coverage is excluded. Remember, if the policy language is ambiguous, Oregon courts will construe it in favor of coverage. Consider, for example whether a "motorized vehicle" includes a pedelec – a vehicle that has a motor but is also powered by a pedaling human.

### **C. Umbrella Coverage**

Umbrella insurance coverage provides higher liability policy limits on top of underlying insurance coverage like auto or homeowners insurance. You can get very high limits to protect against liability for causing catastrophic injury to others, for relatively low premiums. It's reasonable to question whether you need that kind of insurance for riding an e-bike because it's not

likely you would cause catastrophic injury on your e-bike. State law protects basic assets like a home from recovery in injury lawsuits, and a person with limited assets can resort to bankruptcy to avoid paying a judgment, so you may not need umbrella coverage if you don't have a lot of assets.

However, Umbrella Coverage may also be purchased as part of an Umbrella policy that includes UM/UIM coverage. This means that if an uninsured or underinsured driver caused a major injury to you on your bicycle or e-bike you would be able to make a claim for the damages you would otherwise have been able to collect against the at-fault driver if he had enough insurance. Having UM/UIM coverage as part of your Umbrella policy may be a tremendous relief after a bad crash caused by a driver with no assets and little or no insurance.

If you do have substantial personal assets, umbrella coverage is worth considering. Umbrella coverage usually requires that you also purchase auto and homeowners as a package with the same insurance company.

The bottom line on whether conventional automobile insurance policies will provide coverage for damage to your e-bike, for injury to you while riding one, or for injury you may cause to others while riding one, is that the language of the particular insurance policy will control. That language may—and likely will—be interpreted differently by insurance companies than by cycling advocates; it is likely that coverage disputes will make filing suit necessary so that juries and/or judges can decide these issues. Insurance law relating to e-bikes will develop as e-bike riders bring cases to recover damages and juries and judges decide these cases. In the meantime, insurance designed specifically to cover e-bikes is available and worth considering.



## **APPENDIX 1: HOW DOES AN E-BIKE WORK?**

Any bicycle with an electric motor comes within the popular idea of “E-Bike,” whether the motor is something your brother-in-law bolted to his 1974 Schwinn Varsity or, more commonly, a factory-installed unit that’s very much part of the bike at retail. Bikes with electric motors take many shapes, usually depending on the size, power and location of the motor and battery and the extent to which the motor and pedals are connected with each other. The law defines “e-bikes” so as to draw lines for safety and revenue purposes between what’s more like a bicycle and what’s more like a motor vehicle. The most important factor is generally how fast the motor alone can make the bike go. The limit on speed isn’t usually the power of the motor (though that is often limited as well) but rather the e-bike’s electronic speed governor.

In this book, we use “e-bike” generally to refer to e-bikes that meet the Oregon definition of “electric assisted bicycle,” that is, e-bikes with 1000 watts or less of power that go no faster than 20 mph with the motor alone, a definition that appears to apply equally to pedelecs and throttle control bikes.

Bicycle builders have been tinkering with bikes powered by electric batteries since the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The first patent for an electric bicycle with a front-wheel hub motor was issued to Ogden Bolton, an Ohio inventor, in 1895. Depression era Oregon law provided for licensing and registration of “motor bicycles.” Section 55-106, Oregon Code 1930.

Modern e-bikes add three major features to an ordinary bicycle: motors, batteries and controls.

### **The Hub Motor**

A “hub motor” is a motor that sits inside the center of a wheel or the bottom bracket of a bicycle (where the crank arms that hold the pedals meet the frame). It turns the wheel or the pedals by sending electricity through wire coils to spin a magnet. (Electricity traveling through wire creates a magnetic field that

repels or attracts the magnet in sequence, causing the magnet to turn.) Modern e-bikes can have hub motors in the rear wheel, the bottom bracket or the front wheel. Each location has advantages and drawbacks. Bottom bracket motors keep the motor's weight in the center of the bike but wear out the chain and gears faster, while front and rear hub motors are easy on the drive train because they don't drive the chain, but they put more weight fore or aft and can be hard on spokes. A front hub motor gives you all-wheel drive – you in the back, motor in the front – the extra traction and power may help on steep climbs off road. Which kind of drive is best is very much a matter of personal feel.

### **The Battery**

The battery is usually the heaviest e-bike component. It can be installed on the down-tube (that's the frame tube that connects the headset in front to the crankset at the bottom) or on a rear rack. The rear rack position puts a lot of weight in back, so most e-bike batteries are installed on the down-tube. Wherever it is, the battery can be connected to a rear hub, bottom bracket or front hub motor.

Battery technology moves fast, and many of the batteries described below will soon be history for e-bikes. Batteries are getting smaller, lighter and more powerful as the electric storage industry races to power computers, phones, home appliances, cars and just about everything else with smaller, lighter, more powerful, cleaner, portable, rechargeable products.

- Lead acid batteries have been around for more than a century. They're cheap, easily recycled and HEAVY. They don't do well in below-freezing temperatures.

- Nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cad) batteries have more capacity than lead-acid batteries, but they're expensive, and cadmium is toxic and hard to recycle. You'll find fewer and fewer e-bikes with Ni-Cad batteries.

- Nickel metal hydride (NiMH) batteries are a bit more efficient and durable than Ni-Cads, and not so toxic to the

environment, but nothing can really compete, except on price, with

- Lithium-type batteries. (Li-xxx) These include lithium ion (the ones that power your cellphone or the newer high-end Prius plug-in cars), lithium iron phosphate (more stable than lithium ion, but not as powerful), lithium cobalt, lithium manganese and lithium polymer. Most e-bikes now use some form of this battery technology. Li-ion batteries are lighter and more powerful than other batteries, but they're delicate, needing a lot of electronic features to keep them from overheating and self-destructing, even bursting into flame. This is where battery development is likely to be going for the near and mid-future. Whether to go with proven lithium-ion technology or early-adopt lithium cobalt, manganese or polymer depends on your personal attitude. If you still have an iPhone 5s, it's probably lithium-ion. If you're already tired of your iPhone X, good luck.

Note on saving battery power: Pedal! An e-bike is designed to assist a pedaling rider, not as an electric motorcycle. Some e-bikes won't engage electric power at all unless the rider is pedaling (see "pedelec" above). The main limiting factor for an e-bike is its range – how far you can go before running out of power. When you run out, what you have is a very heavy bike. To save power and get home with energy to spare, use the power lightly, to help on hills. When you start from a stop, get going with the pedals, not the power. And going faster uses a lot more power (wind resistance increases exponentially with speed), so get more range out of your e-bike by going 15 mph instead of 20.

Note on lithium battery charging: Don't drain it! You'll get more life out of your lithium e-bike battery if you charge it as often as is practical for you.

### **The Controller**

The controller is a computer that mediates the conversation between the battery and the motor. It decides how much power from the battery goes to the motor and when. It senses when you brake and cuts power to the motor so you're not braking against the motor. It senses when you're pedaling which,

for “electric assist” e-bikes or “pedelecs,” is required for the motor to contribute power. It also controls other powered functions on the e-bike like lights, computer display, cruise control, power range settings and anything else a bike might need a brain for.

## **APPENDIX 2: US FOREST SERVICE TRAIL MANAGEMENT LETTER**

US Forest Service  
Washington Office  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Date: March 24, 2016

Subject: Electric Bikes and Trail Management  
To: Regional Foresters

Electric bikes or e-bikes are growing in popularity and offer increased potential for quality recreation experiences, where determined appropriate, that connect people with enjoyment of their National Forests. Given the recent introduction of e-bikes as a use on National Forest System (NFS) land, questions have been raised by Forest Service units, recreationists, user groups, permit holders and law enforcement regarding appropriate routes and areas for this use. The intent of this letter is to provide current guidance on how to classify and manage e-bikes for determining where they are allowed to be operated on NFS lands. It also lays out possible opportunities to expand appropriate e-bike access to NFS lands through special designation routes and areas for e-bikes now and into the future.

The Forest Service recognizes that technology continues to rapidly change, including the design and capability of e-bikes and other related modes of travel. Monitoring of e-bike use for visitor safety, social issues, along with performance metrics and natural resource impacts will continue to develop and advance. As such, we as an agency remain open to potentially re-visiting and adjusting associated agency guidance if and as needed in the future.

As a starting point, certain applicable laws and relevant directives provide a foundational approach to current e-bike management:

The Forest Service's Travel Management Rule (TMR) and E-Bikes: The TMR defines “motor vehicle” as “any vehicle

which is self-propelled, other than: (1) a vehicle operated on rails; and (2) any wheelchair or mobility device, including one that is battery powered, that is designed solely for use by a mobility-impaired person for locomotion, and that is suitable for use in an indoor pedestrian area.” 36 CFR 212.1. E-bikes have a motor, thereby are self-propelled, and are not covered by the exceptions in the definition. Therefore, e-bikes are motor vehicles and are subject to regulation under the TMR, which requires designation of National Forest System (NFS) roads, NFS trails, and areas on NFS lands for motor vehicle use. 36 CFR 212.51(a). Direction on e-bikes was included in a response in the Federal Register notice for the final over-snow vehicle rule. The response states: “New technologies that merge bicycles and motors, such as e-bikes, are considered motor vehicles under §212.1 of the TMR.” 80 Fed. Reg. 4503 (Jan. 28, 2015).

Disability and Motorized Devices: Questions have been raised in relation to people with disabilities requesting use of e-bikes as an assistive device. The only exception for a person with a disability for use of a device that is self-propelled is if that device meets both parts of the legal definition of a wheelchair or mobility device as defined above in 36 CFR 212.1 and also defined the same way in FSM 2353.05 as well as in 42 U.S.C. 12107. Under that definition, any device that is both designed solely for mobility for a person with disability and which is suitable for use in an indoor pedestrian area may be used anywhere foot travel is allowed. E-bikes are not solely designed for individuals who have mobility impairments and their suitability for indoor use would be highly questionable. Therefore, e-bikes do not qualify for an exception and may only be used where the Motor Vehicle Use Maps allows that use by all people. An e-bike remains a motor vehicle regardless of who is using it. It is essential that exceptions to TMR designations not be made. Restrictions on motor vehicle use that are applied consistently to everyone have been repeatedly found not to be discriminatory.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794): Requires programs on federal lands to provide "reasonable modification" of policies and procedures to allow the participation of qualified people who have disabilities. To be a qualified person the individuals must meet the same essential eligibility requirements for participation in that activity as does a person who doesn't have a disability. However, no federal agency is to "fundamentally alter" the program in order to allow a person with a disability to participate. To allow a motorized device, that doesn't meet both parts of the legal definition of a wheelchair, to be used on a route or in an area where use of that class of device is not designated would be a fundamental alteration of that program.

Other Power Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMD): In 2010, the Department of Justice released their Rule on OPDMD. An OPDMD is defined as any vehicle or device that is powered by batteries, fuel or other engines including those not primarily designed for people with disabilities. Under the OPDMD Rule, a person who has a disability is to be allowed to operate an OPDMD anywhere, unless that area has been previously determined not to be appropriate for use of that type of device/vehicle and the information as to what if any devices/vehicles may be operated in that location has been posted. The criteria within the Rule for such a determination includes the same parameters as were used for the Forest Service designations under the TMR. Therefore, the use of any OPDMD is limited to where the use of that specific type of device/vehicle is designated for use by all. It is essential that OPDMD exceptions not be made to the TMR designations.

Currently, e-bikes are allowed with the TMR designations for "Roads Open to All Vehicles", "Trails Open to All Vehicles", "Trails Open to Vehicles 50" or Less in Width", and "Trails Open to Motorcycles Only". In addition, new trail riding opportunities for e-bikes on existing non-motorized trails may be considered and designated as motorized trails by administrative units and ranger

districts under travel management planning efforts, based on special vehicle class designations in accordance with 36 CFR 212.55. These motorized trail designation changes would involve appropriate environmental analysis, public participation and designation decisions that, once established, will be reflected on updated Motor Vehicle Use Maps in accordance with the TMR.

Technology continues to rapidly change, including the design and performance metrics of e-bikes. As such, the Forest Service will remain open to potentially re-visiting and adjusting associated agency guidance, if and as needed, in the future. The Washington Office Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources staff members ready to assist you include Chris Spori, Travel Management Program Manager, [cfsporl@fs.fed.us](mailto:cfsporl@fs.fed.us); Jaime Schmidt, Assistant Program Manager for Trails, [jschmidt@fs.fed.us](mailto:jschmidt@fs.fed.us); and Janet Zeller, Accessibility Program Manager, [jzeller@fs.fed.us](mailto:jzeller@fs.fed.us).

JOE MEADE

Director, Recreation Heritage & Volunteer Resources

## APPENDIX 3: RESOURCE GUIDE

### **People for Bikes** <https://peopleforbikes.org/>

PeopleForBikes includes both an industry coalition of bicycling suppliers and retailers, as well as a charitable foundation. PeopleForBikes provides a unified front for advocating for bicycling on a national level. Legal requirements are likely to change for e-bikes in the near future as public use of e-bikes ramps up and demand for various public uses increases.

*Handout on e-bike law in Oregon:*

[https://peopleforbikes.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/E-Bike-Law-Handouts\\_OR\\_Revision\\_compressed.pdf](https://peopleforbikes.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/E-Bike-Law-Handouts_OR_Revision_compressed.pdf)

*State by state e-bike guides, national policy info, and legal advocacy materials:*

<https://peopleforbikes.org/our-work/e-bikes/policies-and-laws/>

### **Bike Portland** <https://bikeportland.org/>

An independent daily news source following the Portland bike scene, coordinating journalism, events, and advocacy. State and local developments are covered.

*A brief exploration of e-bike law and regulation at the federal, state, and Portland level, with an additional section on Washington state law:*

<https://bikeportland.org/2010/08/26/e-bikes-the-law-and-you-38493>

### **Oregon Environmental Council** <https://oeonline.org/>

Founded in 1968, OEC is a membership-based nonpartisan nonprofit working to protect Oregon's water, air and land with healthy solutions that work both for today and for future generations.

*Informational page on e-bikes:*

<https://oeonline.org/electric-bikes-the-other-ev/>

**Transportation Research and Education Center at PSU**<https://trec.pdx.edu/>

TREC houses the National Institute for Transportation and Communities (NITC) and administers the Initiative for Bicycle and Pedestrian Innovation (IBPI) alongside other transportation grants and programs.

*Collection of articles concerning e-bikes:*

<https://trec.pdx.edu/tags/e-bikes>

*Results of a national e-bike owner survey:*

[https://trec.pdx.edu/research/project/1041/National Electric Bike Owner Survey](https://trec.pdx.edu/research/project/1041/National%20Electric%20Bike%20Owner%20Survey)

**Bicycle Product Suppliers Association**<http://bpsa.org/>

BPSA is an association of suppliers of bicycles, parts, accessories and services. The association leads industry initiatives in legal and governmental affairs and safety issues, is the leading resource for bicycle statistical data, and provides regular networking and educational forums for members.

*Summary of recent e-bike advocacy efforts:*

<http://bpsa.org/bpsa-drives-e-bike-progress/>

**International Mountain Bicycling Association**<https://www.imba.com/>

IMBA is a nonprofit educational association dedicated to creating, enhancing, and protecting places to ride mountain bikes. IMBA engages in advocacy work with national, state, and local governments and land management organizations.

*Electric mountain bike (eMTB) access and management info:*

<https://www.imba.com/education/emtb>

**The League of American Bicyclists** <http://www.bikeleague.org/>

The League represents bicyclists in the movement to create safer roads, stronger communities, and a bicycle-friendly America. Through information, advocacy and promotion, they work to celebrate and preserve cycling.

*Research on public perception and policy surrounding e-bikes:*

<https://bikeleague.org/content/e-bikes-public-perceptions-policy>

*Results and analysis of a national e-bike survey:*

[https://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/E\\_bikes\\_mini\\_report.pdf](https://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/E_bikes_mini_report.pdf)

**Pedego** <https://www.pedegoelectricbikes.com/>

A manufacturer and seller of electric bikes.

*A summary of e-bike market trends and forecasts:*

<https://www.pedegoelectricbikes.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/MF-EBIKE-16-Executive-Summary-w-Pedego.pdf>

**Electric Bike Reviews** <https://electricbikereview.com/>

A site reviewing e-bikes and e-bike accessories, as well as cataloging nearby electric bike stores by zip code.

**Alliance for Biking and Walking** <http://www.bikewalkalliance.org/>

The Alliance’s mission is to create, strengthen, and unite state and local bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organizations throughout North America. Today, the Alliance continues to work to empower state and local walking and biking organizations to advocate for change in their communities’ political contexts.

**National Conference of State Legislatures**

State Electric Bicycle Laws—A Legislative Primer:

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/state-electric-bicycle-laws-a-legislative-primer.aspx>

**Greater Greater Washington**

An article on an electric scooter service in Washington DC, which explores some of the legal concerns:

<https://gwwash.org/view/67306/electric-scooters-join-the-dockless-bikeshare-experiment>

**Treehugger:** “Should I buy an electric bicycle?”

Covers some of the most frequently asked questions for first-time electric bike ownership.

<https://www.treehugger.com/bikes/should-i-buy-electric-bicycle-everything-you-need-to-know-primer-faq.html>

**eBike Generation:** “Which Electric Bicycle Is Right For You?”

An article breaking down the pro, cons, and considerations involved with different kinds of e-bikes.

<https://ebikegeneration.com/blogs/news/which-electric-bike-is-right-for-you>

**New Wheel:** “Electric Bike Basics”

A basic information page on electric bicycles.

<https://newwheel.net/electric-bike-basics>

**The New Yorker:** “The Electric-Bike Conundrum”

A more philosophical look at e-bike use.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/the-electric-bike-conundrum>

**APPENDIX 4: OREGON BIKE SHOPS**

**4 Seasons Recreational  
Outfitters**  
1678 Ashland St., Ashland, OR  
97520  
<http://4sro.com/>

**Adventure Leadership  
Institute**  
211 Dixon Rec Center, Oregon  
State Uni., Corvallis, OR 97331  
<http://recsports.oregonstate.edu/ali/bike-shop>

**Al's Cycle and Hobby**  
127 N. Central Ave., Medford,  
OR 97501  
<http://www.alcycleandhobby.com/>

**Arriving by Bike**  
2705 Willamette St., Eugene,  
OR 97405  
<http://arrivingbybike.com/>

**Arrow Racing Design Corp.**  
5200 Fish Hatchery Rd., Grants  
Pass, OR 97527

**Ashland Cycle Sport**  
191 Oak St., Ashland, OR  
97520  
<https://www.roguecycle.com/>

**Ashland Electric Bikes**  
1678 Ashland St., Ashland, OR  
97520  
<http://ashlandelectricbikes.com/>

**Bad Boyz Bicycle Specialties**  
19002 SE 15<sup>th</sup> St., Vancouver,  
WA 98683  
<http://bikeshopvancouver.com/>

**Barlow Bikes and Boards**  
315 S. Columbia River Hwy,  
Saint Helens, OR 97051

**Bear Creek Bicycle**  
1988 Hwy. 99 North, Ashland,  
OR 97520  
<http://www.bearcreekbicycle.com/>

**Bend Electric Bikes**  
223 NW Hill Street, Bend, OR  
97701  
<https://www.bendelectricbikes.com/>

**Bend Velo**  
1212 NE 1<sup>st</sup> St., Bend, OR  
97701  
<http://www.bendvelo.com/>

**Bicycles 101**  
1537 8<sup>th</sup> St., Florence, OR  
97439  
<http://www.bikes101.com/>

**Bike Friday**  
3364 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Ave., Eugene, OR  
97402  
<https://www.bikefriday.com/folding-bikes/>

**The Bike Gallery**

Locations in Portland,  
Beaverton, Happy Valley, and  
Lake Oswego.  
<https://www.bikegallery.com/>

**Bike Guy**

752 Hopkins Rd., Central Point,  
OR 97502

**Bike N' Hike**

424 W 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Albany, OR  
97321, and  
401 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Corvallis, OR  
97333  
<https://www.bikenhike.com/>

**Bike Newport**

150 NW 6<sup>th</sup> St., Newport, OR  
97365

**Bike Shop at Joseph  
Hardware**

15 S. Main St., Joseph, OR  
97846  
<https://joseph.doitbest.com/>

**Bike Tools Etc.**

350 E Hersey St., Ashland, OR  
97520  
<https://www.biketoolsetc.com/>

**BikeKraft**

1448 Williams Hwy, Grants  
Pass, OR 97527  
<https://bikekraft.com/>

**Bikes & Beyond**

1089 Marine Dr., Astoria, OR  
97103  
<http://www.bikesandbeyond.com/>

**Bikes N' More**

200 NW First Ave., Canby, OR  
97013

**Blue Heron Bicycles**

877 E 13<sup>th</sup> Ave., Eugene, OR  
97401

**Burley Design**

1500 Westec Dr., Eugene, OR  
97402  
<https://burley.com/>

**Canyon Creek Bicycles**

1640 NE Odell Ave., Roseburg,  
OR 97470  
<http://www.canyoncreekbicycles.com/>

**Classic Cycle**

812 Molalla Ave., Oregon City,  
OR 97045  
<http://cycleoc.com/>

**Clever Cycles**

900 SE Hawthorne Blvd,  
Portland, OR 97214  
<https://clevercycles.com/>

**Co Motion Cycles**

4765 Pacific Ave., Eugene, OR  
97402  
<https://co-motion.com/>

**Cog Wild Mountain Bike Tours**

255 SW Century Dr. #201,  
Bend, OR 97709

<https://www.cogwild.com/>

**Corvallis Bicycle Collective**

707 NW 11<sup>th</sup> St., Corvallis, OR  
97333

<http://corvallisbikes.org/>

**Corvallis Cyclery**

344 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Corvallis, OR  
97333

<https://corvalliscycleryinc.com/>

**Cycle Analysis**

110 5<sup>th</sup> St. Jacksonville, OR  
97530

<https://www.cycleanalysis.net/>

**Cyclotopia**

435 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Corvallis, OR  
97333

<http://www.cyclotopia.com/>

**Cynergy E-Bikes**

3838 SE Powell Blvd., Portland,  
OR 97202

<http://www.cynergyebikes.com/>

[/](#)

**Dick's Bikes & Repairs**

2815 E. St., Baker City, OR  
97814

**Dicks Sporting Goods**

<https://stores.dickssportinggoods.com/or/>

**Dirty Fingers Bicycle Repair**

1235 State St., Hood River, OR  
97031

<http://dirtyfingersbikes.com/>

**Discover Bicycles**

210 State St., Hood River, OR  
97031

<https://discoverbicycles.com/>

**Don's Bike Center**

201 SW G St, Grants Pass, OR  
97526

<http://donsbikecenter.com/>

**Drake's Bike Shop**

2506 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Tillamook, OR  
97141

**Eastern Oregon Cycles**

122 S Oregon St., Ontario, OR  
97914

<https://eastern-oregon-cycles.business.site/>

**The eBike Store**

809 N. Rosa Parks Way,  
Portland, OR 97217

<https://ebikestore.com/>

**Escape Hatch Sports & Cycle**

642 Railroad Ave., Brookings,  
OR 97415

**Eugene Bicycle Works**

455 West 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Eugene, OR  
97401

**Eugene Electric Bicycles**

645 River Road, Eugene, OR  
97404

<https://www.eugeneelectricbicycles.com/>

**Eurosports**

223 E. Hood Ave., Sisters, OR  
97759

<http://eurosports.us/>

**Fall Line Sports**

302 Lewis St., Silverton, OR  
97381

<https://falllinesports.wordpress.com/>

**Firebird Bicycle Shop**

3995 S. Pacific Hwy., Medford,  
OR 97501

**Flywheel Bicycle Solutions**

550 S. Pacific Hwy., Talent, OR  
97540

<http://www.flywheelbicycles.com/>

**Gear Peddler**

184 NE Greenwood Ave.,  
Bend, OR 97701

<http://www.gearpeddler.com/>

**Get N' Gear**

340 A St., Ashland, OR 97520

**Green Gear Cycling**

3364 W 11<sup>th</sup> Ave., Eugene, OR  
97402

**Gresham Bicycle Center**

567 NE 8<sup>th</sup> St., Gresham, OR  
97030

<http://www.greshambike.com/>

**Hutch's Bicycle**

Bend, Eugene, Redmond,  
Klamath Falls

<https://hutchsbicycles.com/>

**Keith Anderson Cycles**

222 N Marble Dr., Grants Pass,  
OR 97526

[http://keithandersoncycles.com/  
/?reqp=1&reqr=Ml5jLt==](http://keithandersoncycles.com/?reqp=1&reqr=Ml5jLt==)

**Klink Cycles**

909 River Rd., Eugene, OR  
97404

<http://www.klinkcycles.com/>

**Kool-Stop International Inc.**

5700 Willow Ln., Lake Oswego,  
OR 97035

<http://www.koolstop.com/english/corporate.html>

**Lactic Acid Bicycles**

4332 Harvey Way, Lake  
Oswego, OR 97035

**Lakeside Bicycles**

428 N State St., Lake Oswego,  
OR 97034

<https://lakeside-bikes.com/>

**Land Shark Bicycles**

507 Hummingbird, Talent, OR  
97540

<https://landsharkbicycles.com/>

**Let it Ride**

25 NW Minnesota Avenue, #6,  
Bend, OR 97701

<https://www.letitridebend.com/>

**Life Cycle Bike Shop**

1733 Pearl St., Eugene, OR  
97401

<http://www.lifecyclebikeshop.com/>

**Marty's Cycles**

712 Crater Lake Ave., Medford,  
OR 97504, and Ashland

<https://martycycleonline.com/>

**Medford Cycle Sport**

1340 Biddle Rd., Medford, OR  
97504

<https://www.roguecycle.com/>

**Moe's Bike Shop**

1397 Sherman Ave. N., Bend,  
OR 97459

<https://moesbikeshop.com/>

**Mountain View Cycles**

205 Oak St, Hood River, OR  
97031

<https://www.mtviewcycles.com/>

**Olson's Bicycles**

1904 Elm St., Ste 1, Forest  
Grove, OR 97116

<https://olsonsbicycles.com/>

**Oregon E-Bikes**

207 Front Street, Hood River,  
OR 97031

<https://www.oregon-cbikes.com/>

**Paul's Bicycle Way of Life**

Eugene, Multiple Locations

<https://bicycleway.com/>

**Peak Sports**

135 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Corvallis, OR  
97330

<https://www.peakssportscorvallis.com/articles/home-pg176.htm>

**Pedego Portland**

412 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Portland, OR  
97204

<https://www.pedegoelectricbikes.com/dealers/portland/>

**Performance Bicycle Shop**

Beaverton and Tualatin

<https://www.performancebike.com>

**Piccadilly Cycles**

525 A Street, Suite 1, Ashland,  
OR 97520

<https://www.piccadillycycles.com/>

**Pine Mountain Sports**

255 SW Century Drive, Bend,  
OR 97702

<https://pinemountainssports.com/>

**Play It Again Sports**

2598 Willamette St., Eugene,  
OR 97405

<https://www.playitagainsportseugene.com/>

**Portland Electric Cycle**

7816 N Interstate Ave.,  
Portland, OR 97217

<https://www.pxcycle.com/>

**Prom Bike Shop**

622 12<sup>th</sup> Ave., Seaside, OR  
97138

<http://www.prombikeshop.com/>

**R/C Plus Hobbies, Bikes,  
and Raceway**

1685 25<sup>th</sup> St. SE, Salem, OR  
97302

<http://www.rcplus.com/>

**Rainy Peak Bicycle**

533 E Main St., Cottage Grove,  
OR 97424

**Randall's Bike Shop**

16165 SW Pacific Hwy, Tigard,  
OR 97224

<https://tualatinvalley.org/business/randalls-bike-shop/>

**REI**

Hillsboro, Bend, Eugene, Tigard

<https://www.rei.com/map/store>

**Sagebrush Cycles**

35 SW Century Dr., Bend, OR  
97702

<http://www.sagebrushcycles.com/>

**Sandy Bicycle**

17390 Smith Ave., Sandy, OR  
97055

<http://www.sandybicycle.com/Welcome.html>

**Santiam Bicycle**

Salem and Tigard

<https://www.santiambicycle.com/>

**Schlegel's Bicycle Center**

1913 19<sup>th</sup> Ave., Forest Grove,  
OR 97116

**Scott's Cycle and Fitness**

147 Commercial St. SE, Salem,  
OR 97301

<http://scottscycle.com/>

**Scott's Cycling and Sports**

110 E Highland Ave.,  
Hermiston, OR 97838

<https://www.scottscycleandsports.com/>

**Simply Cycle**

303 Main St., Springfield, OR  
97477

<https://simplycycle.com/>

**Siskiyou Cyclery, Inc**

1729 Siskiyou Blvd, Ashland,  
OR 97520

<http://www.siskiyoucyclery.com/>

**South Salem Cycleworks**

4071 Liberty Road S, Salem, OR  
97302

<http://sscycleworks.com/>

**Starbuck Lane Bicycle Repair**

4723 SW 172<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Beaverton,  
OR 97007

<https://starbuck-lane-bicycle-repair.business.site/>

**Sunnyside Sports**

930 NW Newport Ave., Bend,  
OR 97701

<https://www.sunnysidesports.com/>

**Sunriver Sports**

57100 Beaver Dr. #13 and #16,  
Sunriver, OR 97707

<http://www.sunriversports.com/>

**T & Nae's Cycles**

815 W 12<sup>th</sup> St., The Dalles, OR  
97058

**The Bike Peddler**

174 Commercial St. NE, Salem,  
OR 97301

<http://www.bikepeddler.com/>

**The Ledge**

369 S 6<sup>th</sup> St., Klamath Falls, OR  
97601

<https://yetiledge.wordpress.com/>

**The Mountain Works**

1301 Adams Ave., La Grande,  
OR 97850

<https://www.mountainworksbiocycles.com/>

**Tommy's Bicycle Shop**

624 NE Third St., McMinnville,  
OR 97128

<http://tommysbicycle.net/>

**Trask Mountain Cycle**

48400 Wilson River Hwy,  
Tillamook, OR 97141

<http://www.traskmountaincycle.com/>

**Trinity Bikes**

1730 SW Parkway Dr.,  
Redmond, OR 97756

<https://www.trinitybikes.com/>

**Vancouver Cyclery**

10108 NE Hwy 99, Vancouver,  
WA 98686

<http://www.vancouvercyclery.com/>

**Waldron's Outdoor Sports**

330 NE Garden Valley Blvd,  
Roseburg, OR 97470

<http://www.waldronsoutdoor.com/>

**Walnut Studiolo**

36005 Hwy 53, Nehalem, OR  
97131

<https://walnutstudiolo.com/>

**Webcyclery**

550 SW Industrial Way #150,  
Bend, OR 97702

<https://webcyclery.com/>

**Wheel Fun Rentals**

Bend, Black Butte Ranch,  
Klamath Falls, Redmond,  
Seaside

<https://wheelfunrentals.com/>