
Notice to the Public

Authorization For Class I Electric Bicycles on All Trails Where Bicycles are Permitted USDA Forest Service, Southern Region Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area Lyon County, Trigg County, KY Stewart County, TN

February 2026

This notice documents the decision to add the use of class I (pedal assist) electric bicycles (commonly referred to as E-Bikes) on all trails currently designated for non-motorized bicycle use at Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. Public demand for this use is extraordinarily high as annual visitation is more than 1,900,000 visits. Class I e-bike use is permitted by the National Park Service and on multiple National Forest System units.

Description of Action

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (NRA) contains over 100 miles of designated, non-motorized bicycle trails. These are primarily for mountain bike use as described in the Land and Resource Management Plan, 2004 (LRMP). The NRA is changing this use by adding Class I electric bicycle (pedal assist) on all non-motorized trails where bicycle use is currently permitted. Annual monitoring will disclose specific activities and effects such as user conflicts, incidents, and trail conditions, and will invite continued public and partner input and participation. This change in use includes trails in Lyon and Trigg Counties in Kentucky, and Stewart County in Tennessee, within the NRA.

This decision is based on a review of a thorough analysis conducted on other National Forests of relevant public use information, discussions with staff, and the decision to adapt to current recreationist user trends.

Definition of E-bike Classification

The following definition describes which e-bikes will be authorized.

- **Class 1 E-bikes:** have a motor (max 750W) that assists while pedaling (has no throttle) up to 20 mph. Class 1 e-bikes are a bicycle equipped with an electric motor that aids only when the rider is pedaling, featuring no throttle, and a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph.

Findings required by Other Laws

This project is consistent with Goal 7 of the 2004 Area Plan to “Enhance dispersed recreational and environmental education opportunities throughout Land Between the Lakes.

The action is consistent with the management strategy of the Area Plan to establish a sustainable recreation and trail system.

Implementation Date

Implementation of this decision may occur immediately.

Contact Person

For further information concerning this decision, contact Andy Chappell at Land Between the Lakes Headquarters, phone (270) 924-2023 or email andrew.chappell@usda.gov

James R. McCoy
Area Supervisor

Date

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