



## SOUTH DAKOTA'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 registration, licensing, or insurance requirements that apply to motor vehicles.
- » South Dakota designates three classes of electric bicycles:
  - 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 electric bicycle reaches 20 mph.

## 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.

## CHECK OUT

- » A map of great eMTB rides at [peopleforbikes.org/emtb](http://peopleforbikes.org/emtb)
- » eMTB "Adventures" at [peopleforbikes.org/electric-bikes](http://peopleforbikes.org/electric-bikes)

## 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.

- 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.
- » Unless otherwise prohibited by a governmental entity having jurisdiction, a person may operate a Class 1 or Class 2 electric bicycle on any bicycle path or multi-use path in this state. When in doubt, check with your town, city, or county for local rules and regulations before riding.
- » Persons under 16 years of age may not ride a Class 3 electric bicycle, unless as a passenger.

\* The following South Dakota laws are referenced: S.D. Codified Laws §32-20B, §32-3-1, §32-20-1, §32-35-1, §32-38-2, §26-21.1.

## SOUTH DAKOTA'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR TRAILS

- » LOCAL: Consult your local land management agency.
- » STATE: The South Dakota Division of Parks and Recreation does not have an electric bicycle policy. Contact the department for the most up to date information. PeopleForBikes is monitoring this policy and will update this document as needed.
- » FEDERAL: The majority of public lands managed for recreation in South Dakota are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service, where eMTBs are considered motorized vehicles and have access to motorized trails. Contact the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Regional Office, or the state's National Grasslands for more information.

## GREAT eMTB RIDES IN SOUTH DAKOTA

- » Centennial Trail - Boxelder Creek to Pilot Knob  
Nemo | 6.6 miles
- » Michelson Trail  
Deadwood | 113.3 miles



## Learn more at [PeopleForBikes.org/electric-bikes](http://PeopleForBikes.org/electric-bikes)

- » Blogs and webinars
- » Electric bicycle laws around the country
- » Electric bicycle statistics and research
- » Buying guide
- » Retailer materials
- » eMTB management resources