

Electric bicycle rules, regulations, and etiquette

What is an eBike?

Under Nevada law (NRS 484B.017), an Electric Bicycle (eBike) is defined as a device upon which a person may ride, having **two or three wheels, fully operable pedals, a seat for a rider, and a motor that does not produce more than 750 watts, and meets one of the three classes:**

- **Class 1** – motor aids only when the rider is pedaling, and the assist is limited to 20 MPH.
- **Class 2** – motor may be used exclusively to propel the rider (i.e., it has a throttle), and assistance is limited to 20 MPH.
- **Class 3** – motor aids only when the rider is pedaling, and the assist is limited to 28 MPH.

Where may eBikes be ridden?

Nevada law (NRS 482.0287) generally allows eBikes to be ridden in places where bicycles are allowed, including streets, highways, roads, roadways, bicycle lanes, bicycle paths and shared-use paths. There are some exceptions:

- Federal law may override state law in some circumstances.
- Local and state authorities may prohibit use on a bicycle path or shared-use path under certain prescribed circumstances.
- Local and state authorities may regulate use on ‘natural surface’ trails designated as non-motorized and over which they have jurisdiction.

Where may I ride an eBike within Carson City?

- **Municipality of Carson City:** Carson City does not have an eBike ordinance or regulations, so State law prevails, and eBikes are allowed to be ridden where bicycles are allowed, including bicycle paths, shared-use paths, and natural surface trails that are within the City’s jurisdiction.
- **State of Nevada Lands:** eBikes are normally allowed where bicycles are allowed, including trails within the Lake Tahoe State Park and Spooner Lake State Park. Be sure to check with the land manager for current rules and regulations.
- **Federal Lands (Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, etc.):** eBikes are allowed on roads, paths, and trails where motorized vehicles are allowed, but they are generally NOT allowed on trails that are designated as non-motorized. Where eBikes ARE allowed on non-motorized trails on federal lands, usage is often restricted to Class 1. Be sure to check with the land manager for current rules and regulations.

Practice responsible eBike riding.

- **Share the Trail:** Yield to hikers, horses, and those passing or traveling uphill.
- **Respect others:** Be kind, ride in control and control your speed, and **“Go Slow and Say Hello”** when approaching or passing others.
- **Respect the landscape.** Remain on designated roads, paths, and trails.
- **Be a good trail steward.** Respect your local trail builders and don’t abuse the trails. Ride through a puddle, rather than around it. Don’t ride on muddy trails. And remember that your eBike is heavier than a traditional bike.
- **Respect wildlife and ranch animals.** You are in their home, don’t disturb them.
- **Pack-It-In, Pack-It-Out.**