



E-Bikes on San Juan National Forest

Fact Sheet AND Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The Forest Service released national directives for e-bikes on February 24th, 2022. The directives established e-bikes as motorized equipment, validates that e-bikes are allowed on any trail or route open to motorized use, and allows for local travel management planning to consider e-bike use on non-motorized trails. **E-bikes are not allowed on non-motorized trails.**

WHAT IS AN E-Bike?

Electric Bicycle (E-Bike). Also referred to as an electric mountain bike (eMTB), a type of motor vehicle with two or three wheels, fully operable pedals, and an electric motor of not more than 750 watts that meets the requirements of one of the following three classes:

- a. Class 1 E-Bike. An e-bike equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- b. Class 2 E-Bike. An e-bike equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the e-bike and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- c. Class 3 E-Bike. An e-bike equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour.

Recommended Trails for E-Bikes

San Juan National Forest has an expansive trail system with over 650 miles of routes and Off

Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails open to e-bike use. Let's face it, if you have an e-bike/eMTB, many of the routes and trails open to e-bikes may not provide the experience you were looking for. Good news! Each district of San Juan National Forest has many trails open to e-bikes. The trails listed below offer single track riding experiences spanning the entire San Juan National Forest landscape. Plan ahead and prepare – some of these trails are demanding and remote.

Dolores Ranger District

- Ramparts North - #166
- South Coyote Park - #170
- Box Canyon - #617, #621
- Calico - #202, #208, #640
- East Fork - #638

Columbine Ranger District

- Cutthroat - #496
- Hermosa Creek - #514
 - Corral Draw - #521
- Jones Creek - #518
- Pinkerton-Flagstaff - #522
- Multiple options at Purgatory Ski Resort

Pagosa Ranger District

- Devil Mountain - #600
- Snow Springs - #605
- Do Right - #642
- Treasure Mountain Trail - #565

Bureau of Land Management – Tres Rios District

- Aqueduct (Class 1 e-bike only) (near Mancos, CO)

- Chutes and Ladders (Class 1 e-bikes only) (near Mancos, CO)
- Mud Springs (west of Montezuma municipal airport)

City of Durango

- Twin Buttes all trails (Class 1 e-bike only)
- Hard surface trails – Animas River Trail, SMART 160 Trail, Florida Road Trail, Goelein Gulch Trail, Three Springs Trail (Class 1 and 2 e-bikes only)

E-Bikes and Hunting

E-Bikes are increasingly used for scouting and hunting purposes.

- E-Bikes are allowed on any route open to motorized travel.
- E-Bikes are not allowed in wilderness.
- E-Bikes are not allowed to travel cross-country for any reason. [Stay the Trail](#). Plan ahead, prepare, and be sure to have the free San Juan National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM).

There is one MVUM for each district of the forest. These maps provide detail about open routes, open dates, and which uses are allowed. Remember, e-bikes are allowed on any route open to motorized use. For more information on San Juan National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Maps visit our [website](#).

Dolores Ranger District – Game Retrieval

Dolores Ranger District specifically addressed animal retrieval in their Travel Management Rule and produced a complimenting map. For more information visit this [website](#).

Only on Dolores Ranger District:

During the Colorado Parks and Wildlife identified hunting seasons, e-bikes can travel off route for the purposes of retrieving a legally downed big game animal under the following conditions:

- Off route travel is by e-bike or an OHV less than 50 inches in width.

- Off route Travel is limited to within one mile of a road designated as open and is located within the Game Retrieval Area identified on the map.
- No more than two e-bikes or two OHV's less than 50 inches in width are used to retrieve a legally harvested big game animal. If two vehicles are used only one trip to retrieve game will be allowed and the two vehicles must be in sight of each other. If one OHV is used to retrieve game, two trips are allowed.
- The licensed hunter, who harvested the big game animal, is in the game retrieval party, carrying a voided carcass tag.

Please note that the animal retrieval rule on Dolores does not provide OHV access to the entire district and does not authorize the use of an OHV on non-motorized trails.

E-Bikes and Future Access

The Forest Service manages e-bikes as motor vehicles under the Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212, Subpart B). The Travel Management Rule requires following National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning process when changes to the road and trail transportation system. This means changing a non-motorized trail to allow for e-bike use requires following the NEPA process. NEPA is a local level process, requires public input, and does not lead to pre-determined decisions.