



FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION  
**VERMONT**



AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# E-BIKING ON FPR-MANAGED LANDS

For the House Committee on Transportation

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WELCOME

# BICYCLING ON FPR LANDS

- State Forests and State Parks
- Governed by FPR Policy #4: Mountain Bicycles, Horseback Riding, and Pack Animals
  - Does not include e-biking
- Allowed on:
  - Forest Highways and Park Roads
    - Cotton Brook Road in Stowe
  - Multi-use trails
    - Wells River Railbed through Groton State Forest
  - Designated mountain bike trails
    - Perry Hill network in Waterbury



*Biking on a gravel-surfaced forest highway in Willoughby State Forest*

# E-BICYCLES

- Considered bicycles, not motorized vehicles, under Vermont law
- Landowners/managers given jurisdiction for what is allowed on trails (different requirements for natural surface trails vs multi-use)
- E-bikes are allowed on adjacent roads and multi-use trails
- Many MTB trail managers in Vermont have allowed Class 1 e-bikes

	 <b>CLASS 1</b>	 <b>CLASS 2</b>	 <b>CLASS 3</b>
Pedal Assist	✓	✓	✓
Throttle		✓	
Max Speed	20 mph	20 mph	28 mph

# PROCESS FOR EVALUATING E-BIKING



1. ANR Lands Team formed working group of state lands and state parks staff
2. Working group developed draft policy update
  - Developed list of research questions
  - Conducted literature review and consulted technical experts
  - Assessed potential impacts (positive and negative) on each resource type for each e-bike type
  - Drafted policy update
3. Review and feedback from state lands staff
  - Includes staff from FPR, FWD, and DEC
4. Review and feedback from ANR Lands Team and ANR Leadership
5. Public Comment
6. Final drafting
7. Work with partners to implement final decision

# DRAFT REVISIONS TO FPR POLICY #4

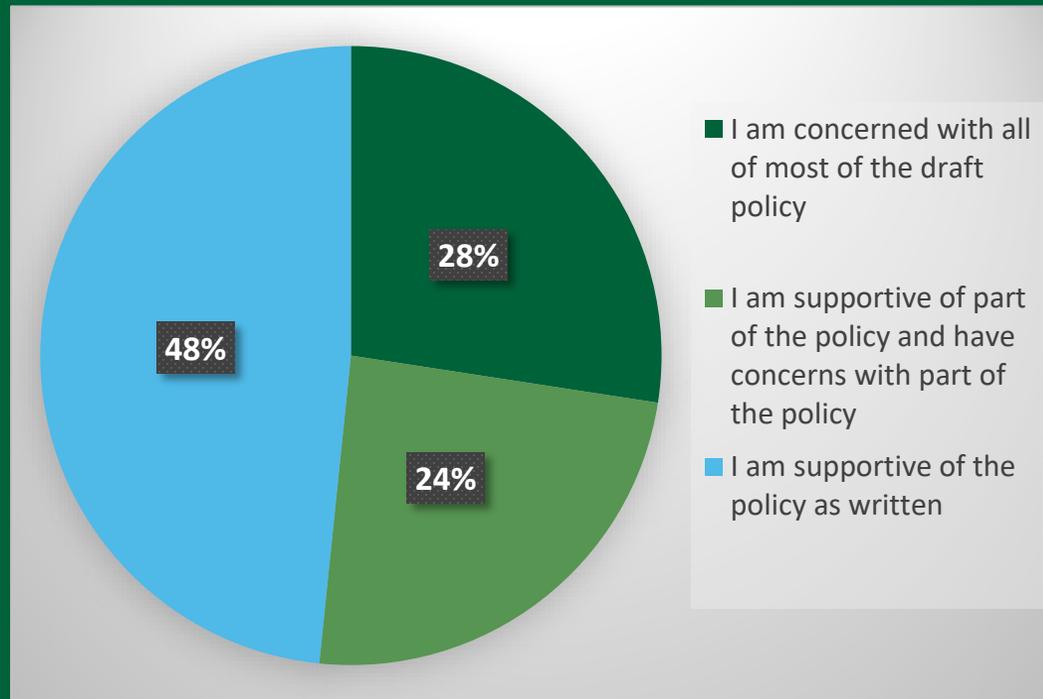


- Allow bicycles, including all classes of e-bike on:
  - Gravel-surfaced or paved forest highways
  - Designated natural surface forest highways
  - Park roads
  - Multi-use trails
- Allow Class I e-bikes on:
  - Mountain bike trails
- Proposed speed limit of 20 mph, lower if needed in specific locations (state park campgrounds)
- Allows for short-term closures, if deemed necessary
- Allow equestrian use on:
  - Gravel-surfaced or paved forest highways
  - Park roads outside of operating season unless accessing designated horse campsite or trail
  - Other designated trails

[More information on the draft policy](#)

# PUBLIC COMMENT

- 278 comments through online form and email



## • Comment Themes

- Accessibility
- Similar impacts to regular bikes
- Matches other managers
- Safety concerns for bicyclists and other users
- Resource damage
- Speed
- Enforcement
- Non-compliant/modified e-bikes

# NEXT STEPS

- Incorporate public feedback
- Final review and approval
- Implementation
  - Public information
  - Collaborate with partners
  - Behavior and safety messaging



*Biking on the Causeway in Causeway State Park. Photo courtesy of Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sport*

# QUESTIONS?

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