

Department of Natural Resources

OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1430 Anchorage, AK 99501-3561 Main: 907.269-8690 Fax: 907-269-5673

March 17, 2025

National Park Service Attention: Jay Calhoun Division of Regulations, Jurisdiction and Special Park Uses MS-2472 1849 C Street NW Washington, DC 20240

Submitted online at regulations.gov

Re: Powered Micromobility Devices; Regulation Identifier Number (RIN) 1024–AE79

Dear Mr. Calhoun,

The State of Alaska (State) reviewed the proposed management framework for the use of powered micromobility devices within the National Park System. The proposed rule defines micromobility devices separately from motor vehicles, traditional or electric bicycles, and human powered coasting devices. Additionally, the rule proposes to create rules for when and how these devices (such as electric scooters, hoverboards, and Segways) may be used in units of the National Park System. These comments incorporate input from the Departments of Natural Resources (DNR) and Fish and Game (ADF&G).

Edits to the Preamble for the Rule

Though the State does not object to this proposed rule, we suggest that the preamble to the final rule be slightly edited to accurately capture that Alaska parks are managed differently from parks in the rest of the country, and off-road vehicle use is allowed in Alaskan parks and preserves in compliance with the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 13 and 43 CFR Part 36.

We suggest the addition of the following edits to language in the preamble of the final rule (additions underlined):

Background

Paragraph 2:

The U.S. DOT and PBIC classify traditional and electric bicycles as micromobility devices; however, the use of traditional and electric bicycles in units of the National Park System is already governed by regulations in 36 CFR 4.30 and, in Alaska by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR part 13 (Alaska specific) and 43 CFR part 36 (Alaska specific), and therefore is not addressed in this proposed rule. ...

Existing Regulatory Framework

Paragraph 2:

...NPS regulations addressing the use of motor vehicles, traditional bicycles, and electric bicycles are found in 36 CFR 4.30 and part 13 (Alaska specific) and 43 CFR part 36 (Alaska specific). ...

Paragraph 3

Due to concerns about impacts to resources and visitors, NPS regulations at 36 CFR 4.10 generally limit motor vehicle use to public roads and parking areas within System units, except in Alaskan parks where vehicle use is governed by ANILCA and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR part 13 and 43 CFR part 36. See 52 FR 10679 (April 2, 1987) and for Alaska, 71 FR 69333, November 30, 2006 and 51 FR 31629, Sept. 4, 1986). The NPS may allow off-road motor vehicle (ORV) use in parks, national recreation areas, national seashores, national lakeshores and national preserves, but only after it completes a notice and comment rulemaking process that designates routes and areas for ORV use in special regulations that apply to the System unit (ORV use in Alaskan parks and national preserves is allowed in accordance with ANILCA). Except in Alaska, ORV use is not allowed in national parks or other types of System units (e.g., national monuments) that are managed by the NPS but not identified in 36 CFR 4.10. ...

Paragraph 5

...NPS regulations at 36 CFR 5.3 ("Business operations.") and 36 CFR subpart E ("Special visitor services.") prohibit anyone from conducting a business in a System unit except in accordance with a permit, contract or other written agreement with the United States. ...

Closing

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this proposed rule. Given the unique nature of managing NPS lands in Alaska due to ANILCA, we encourage you to include these distinctions for the clarity of the public and NPS staff. Please contact me at (907)269-0880 or by email at catherine.heroy@alaska.gov to coordinate any follow up discussions.

Sincerely,

Catherine Heroy

Federal Program Manager