

INTERIM POLICY ON USE OF WHEELCHAIRS AND OTHER POWER-DRIVEN
MOBILITY DEVICES ALLOWING ACCESS TO INDIVIDUALS WITH MOBILITY
DISABILITIES ON TRAILS IN SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY AND
MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY OWNED OR
MANAGED PARKLANDS

This interim policy provides guidelines for use of power-driven mobility devices pursuant to the U. S. Department of Justice regulations amending the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title II regulation, 28 C.F.R., Part 35, effective March 15, 2011.

Use of wheelchairs and other power-driven mobility devices (OPDMD), including electronic personal assistance mobility devices (EPAMD) such as the Segway PT or golf carts, is generally permitted on Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority owned-or-managed trails. It is recommended that park users who need to employ such devices for mobility and are otherwise unfamiliar with the trail first contact the agencies for local trail conditions at info@smmc.ca.gov. The agencies' parklands contain many miles of trails, almost all of which are dirt or rocky substrate and located mostly in natural area wildlands. An existing trail may initially appear to be accessibly wide but may narrow, causing restricted access, have steep gradient sections, drop-offs, and have an uneven surface some distance along the trail, making OPDMD travel unsafe. Weather and environmental conditions may unexpectedly change, such that erosion, creek crossings, fire hazard, sensitive species breeding, or other seasonal conditions can impede trail use. Physical space to turn around an OPDMD or EPAMD and reverse direction on a trail may not be available.

For the physical safety of mobility device users and other trail users, for protection of sensitive natural resources in parks, noise mitigation, and for seasonal fire prevention, additional restrictions are necessary: (a) the use of internal combustion engines is prohibited, (b) noise emitted by OPDMDs and EPAMDs may not exceed 70 decibels and, (c) no person shall operate a OPDMD or EPAMD at a speed in excess of 5 miles per hour.

This interim policy may be revised as agency trails are further assessed to determine the extent of physical constraints, resource protection criteria, and safety concerns for all trail users.

Please contact info@smmc.ca.gov with any questions; or Ranger James Latham, at james.latham@mrca.ca.gov, 310 858-7272, ext. 225, and ADA Coordinator Giovanna Allen, at 323 221-9944, ext. 145, giovanna.allen@mrca.ca.gov.

Your understanding and cooperation is appreciated.