

Dear Grand County Commission,

On behalf of Trail Mix, the trail advisory committee to the Grand County Commission, we are writing to express our support for **Alternative B – Class 1 E-bikes Allowed on Some Proposed Trails**, with just one suggested change. While we find Alternative B to be the most responsible and balanced approach to integrating Class 1 e-bikes into Moab's trail network, we wish to propose a critical modification based on significant local input.

We commend the BLM for its comprehensive analysis and for considering diverse perspectives in this EA. Our committee recognizes the increasing popularity of e-bikes and their potential to expand recreational opportunities for a broader spectrum of users, including those with physical limitations or age-related considerations. The EA's finding that **83% of substantive public comments supported the allowance of Class 1 e-bikes** underscores a clear community desire for expanded access.

We believe Alternative B's **two-phased approach** for Class 1 e-bikes on 114 miles of mountain bike trails would be effective. This allows for crucial **monitoring and adaptive management** of public safety, user experience, and potential trail/resource impacts before wider implementation. Phase 1 observations will inform Phase 2 mitigation, demonstrating responsible trail stewardship.

However, Trail Mix strongly recommends that the Amasa Back Trail System (including Pothole and Rock Stacker Trails) be EXCLUDED from Class 1 e-bike authorization under Alternative B.

While Alternative B proposes to include Amasa Back in Phase 2, there has been consistent and vocal feedback from a significant portion of Moab's long-standing traditional mountain biking and hiking communities regarding this specific area. These users have expressed a strong desire to preserve the Amasa Back trail system for traditional, human-powered mountain biking and hiking experiences only. This sentiment stems from the area's unique character, challenging terrain, and the specific recreational outcomes associated with its purely non-motorized nature.

Alternative B's strength lies in its stated intention to **"reserve 116 miles of singletrack trails for traditional mountain bike only opportunities as a desired experience expressed during the public scoping period"**. By removing Amasa Back from e-bike authorization, we would further reinforce this commitment and acknowledge the deeply held values of local trail users who wish to see certain iconic trails retain their traditional character. This targeted exclusion would serve to enhance user satisfaction by maintaining distinct recreational experiences within the larger network.

Maintaining Amasa Back as a traditional mountain bike and hike-only area would:

- Honor the passionate feedback from a dedicated segment of the local and visiting trail user community.
- Preserve a crucial destination for those seeking a purely human-powered challenge, without the perceived change in dynamics that e-bikes might introduce, particularly on its advanced terrain and climb/descent flow.
- Align with the adaptive management philosophy by responding directly to strong public sentiment on a specific, sensitive area.

In conclusion, Trail Mix believes that a modified Alternative B, which incorporates the crucial exclusion of the Amasa Back Trail System from Class 1 e-bike access, offers the most balanced and forward-thinking path. This approach provides expanded recreational opportunities in most areas while judiciously preserving key traditional experiences where community sentiment is strongest. We urge the Grand County Commission to support this modified Alternative B and recommend it to the Moab BLM Field Office as the preferred decision.

Thank you for your careful consideration and leadership in helping Grand County's invaluable recreational resources.

Sincerely,

Trail Mix Trail Advisory Committee to the Grand County Commission