

Dear Grand County Commission,

On behalf of Trail Mix, the trail advisory committee to the Grand County Commission, we are writing to respectfully recommend support for **Alternative A – No Action Alternative**. After review of the EA and extensive discussion, our committee believes that maintaining the current designation of identified mountain bike trails exclusively for traditional, non-motorized use best serves the long-term interests of Moab's unique outdoor recreation values and trail integrity.

While we acknowledge the increasing popularity of e-bikes and the desire for expanded access for certain user groups, Alternative A offers critical advantages for preserving the distinct recreational setting and opportunities that define Moab's world-renowned trail system.

Preservation of Recreation Setting Characteristics: Under Alternative A, all currently identified mountain bike trails would remain open solely to traditional mountain bikes and other non-motorized uses. This maintains the "perceived non-motorized character" of these trails, which is a core desire for a significant portion of our recreational community. For many, the ability to escape motorized influence and engage in a purely human-powered experience is a fundamental aspect of their visit to Moab.

Minimizing User Conflicts and Maintaining Trail Experience: The EA itself identifies "Safety" and "User Conflicts" as primary concerns with the introduction of e-bikes, noting potential higher speeds on uphill sections and increased need for emergency services. Traditional mountain bikers often seek specific experiences, such as enjoying a physical challenge and feeling a greater sense of independence. The introduction of e-bikes, even Class 1, can alter these desired experiences by changing trail flow, increasing perceived speeds, and leading to congestion, particularly during peak seasons.

Protection of Trail Integrity and Resources: The EA acknowledges concerns regarding "Trail Damage" and "Resource Impacts" from the addition of e-bikes, specifically citing a "lack of research" on e-bike use in the desert environment and potential enhanced rates of erosion or off-trail impacts. Moab's fragile desert soils and biological soil crusts are particularly susceptible to increased pressure and off-trail travel, which could be exacerbated by higher traffic volumes or different user dynamics introduced by e-bikes.

Challenges of Enforcement: A significant concern highlighted in the EA is the challenge of "Enforcement" regarding e-bike classifications and unauthorized use. The document explicitly states that "identifying and enforcing bicycle type restrictions is difficult, time consuming, and costly," and would require "increased commitment of BLM law enforcement and recreation program staff and funding sources," potentially diverting resources from other critical issues. Adopting Alternative A bypasses this escalating enforcement burden.

In light of these considerations, Trail Mix believes that the "No Action" alternative is the most prudent and responsible choice for the Moab Field Office at this time. We urge the Grand County Commission to support Alternative A.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the careful stewardship of Grand County's invaluable outdoor recreational assets.

Sincerely,

Trail Mix Trail Advisory Committee to the Grand County Commission