

Dear Grand County Commission,

On behalf of Trail Mix, the trail advisory committee to the Grand County Commission, we are writing to support **Alternative C – Class 1 E-Bikes Allowed on All Identified Trails**. After a review of the EA and extensive deliberation, our committee believes that authorizing Class 1 e-bikes on all proposed trails represents the most comprehensive and equitable approach to expanding recreational opportunities, aligning with significant public demand, and enhancing Moab's position as a world-class outdoor recreation destination.

The EA clearly establishes the "Purpose and Need" to expand recreational opportunities for Class 1 e-bike users, noting the BLM's responsibility under FLPMA to provide diverse outdoor recreation. Alternative C directly addresses this need with the most expansive reach.

Meeting Overwhelming Public Demand and Expanding Access: The EA highlights that an overwhelming **83% of public comments** expressed support for the Class 1 e-bikes on the analyzed mountain bike trails. This includes individuals who, due to age, physical limitations, or past injuries, can greatly benefit from the pedal-assist feature to continue enjoying mountain biking on singletrack trails. The ability to continue recreating in this manner offers immense huge health benefits, such as reduction of stress, enjoying physical activity in a scenic setting, enjoying time with family & friends in an outdoor setting, and improved physical capacity".

Equitable Dispersion of Use and Minimized Crowding: As noted in the EA, Alternative C broader distribution can potentially "reduce crowding when compared to Alternative B because e-bike use would be spread over 211.2 miles of trail, instead of 114 miles of trail." This helps to avoid over-concentrating use on a few popular trailheads and systems, thereby enhancing the overall visitor experience across the Moab Field Office.

Minimal Environmental Impact Concerns for Class 1 E-bikes: The EA's analysis indicates that the physical impacts of Class 1 e-bikes are largely similar to those of traditional mountain bikes. Research cited, including the IMBA 2016 study, suggests "no significant difference in soil displacement due to the performance or speed of the rider between eMTBs and traditional mountain bikes" and that impacts are primarily "due to poor trail design and maintenance" rather than the type of bike. Moab's trails are already designed and maintained to high standards for mountain biking, so this change will not significantly impact Moab's whole trail network.

Positive Socioeconomic Contributions: Authorizing Class 1 e-bikes on all identified trails is reasonably foreseeable to result in "increased visitation by this particular user group with resulting increased spending in the local economy within Moab.

In conclusion, Trail Mix believes that Alternative C offers the most forward-thinking, inclusive, and economically beneficial path for Moab's trail system. It meets the significant public demand, provides maximum recreational opportunity, and is supported by manageable impacts. We urge the Grand County Commission to recommend Alternative C to the Moab BLM Field Office as the preferred decision for authorizing Class 1 e-bikes.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the future of recreation in Grand County.

Sincerely,

Trail Mix Trail Advisory Committee to the Grand County Commission