

New Power, Same Respect: Welcoming Class 1 E-Bikes in Moab

Effective March 1, 2026, the Moab BLM Field Office allows **Class 1 E-bikes** on **designated BLM non-motorized trails**. This **does not** apply to U.S. Forest Service land. With this new access comes a responsibility to protect our fragile desert environment and maintain the "Moab vibe" of courtesy, stewardship, and adventure.

Class 1 E-Bike: (further referred to as e-bike)

- Pedal-assist only** (no throttle)
- Motor assistance stops at **20 mph**
- Most similar in use and impact to a traditional mountain bike

✗ Class 2 (throttle) & Class 3 (28 mph) e-bikes, and Unclassified/Electric Motorcycles (eMoto's) remain prohibited.

→ Yield Early and Often

- While standard yield practices still apply, e-bike riders are encouraged to yield proactively to all hikers, equestrians, and traditional mountain bikes, with downhill riders yielding to uphill riders. Be prepared to pause and let traditional bikers maintain their momentum if they are struggling on a climb.

→ Trail Damage Is About Behavior

- The extra torque of an e-bike can increase the likelihood of spinning the rear tire. Avoid "power-sliding" or spinning out on steep climbs.
- Increased power creates increased speed differentials between users. This can lead to accidents. As always, keep your speed in check around blind corners.
- Avoid riding muddy or saturated trails — e-bike weight and torque amplify damage when soils are wet.

→ Know Your Boundaries - Riders are responsible for knowing where they are riding.

- Strictly Off-Limits:** Trails within **BLM Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)**, —lands managed to preserve wilderness characteristics such as naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation. These areas are:
 - The Whole Enchilada***
 - Hidden Valley*
 - Fisher Mesa*
- **non-motorized trails within The Whole Enchilada are either **WSA** or **USFS****
- E-bikes remain **prohibited** on all **U.S. Forest Service** non-motorized trails.
- Respect Closures: If a trail is signed "No E-Bikes," please respect it to preserve future access.

→ Ride with Respect in Moab

- Awareness & Courtesy:** E-bikes are quiet and can approach other trail users faster than expected, which can lead to surprise or close calls. All riders are encouraged to use a bell when approaching others. Help keep shared trails enjoyable for everyone by riding predictably, greeting others as you pass, and keeping music to headphones.
- Be Prepared:** E-bikes can extend your range and access. Plan conservatively, monitor battery levels, and carry Moab essentials—including extra water, navigation tools, and basic repair supplies.