

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 (USFS)** 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. When climbing, be prepared to pause and let traditional bikers maintain their momentum.

→ Trail Damage Is About Behavior

- Protect biological soil crust (crypto): Stay on the established trail surface at all times; never ride off-trail, widen trails, or create ride-arounds.
- 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. Dismount if necessary to prevent trail damage.
- 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/ Porcupine System***
 - 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, communicating with others as you pass
- 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.