



Moab Field Office - Allowing for Class 1 E-bike Use on Designated Mountain Bike Trails

Fact Sheet—Utah

On October 1, 2024, the Bureau of Land Management, Moab Field Office (BLM MFO) will initiate a 30-day public scoping period for a proposed environmental assessment that would analyze non-motorized mountain bike trails within the BLM MFO to allow for Class 1 e-bike use.

What is an electric bicycle, or e-bike?

The BLM's off-road vehicle regulations 43 CFR 8340.0-5(j) defines an e-bike as a bicycle with a small electric motor of **not more than 750 watts (one horsepower)** which assists in the operation of the bicycle and reduces the physical exertion demands on the rider. E-bikes may have **two or three wheels** and must have **fully operable pedals**. They must also **meet the requirements of one of the following three classes**:

- **Class 1 electric bicycle** shall mean an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- **Class 2 electric bicycle** shall mean an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- **Class 3 electric bicycle** shall mean an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour.

How does the BLM MFO currently manage e-bike use?

E-bikes are currently not allowed on non-motorized mountain bike trails within the Moab Field Office, with the exception of the Monitor and Merrimac connector trails but are allowed on all designated motorized routes. Opportunities for e-bikes include the Slickrock National Recreation Trail and all other designated motorized routes including motorized singletrack trails.

What existing designated trails would the BLM MFO consider for E-bike use?

To enhance the singletrack mountain bike trail opportunities for e-bike users within the BLM MFO, the BLM is proposing to assess which, if any, currently designated non-motorized mountain bike trails Class 1 e-bikes would be allowed to use through 43 Code of Federal Regulations.

The trails and trail systems that would be assessed include*:

- Athena Trail
- Horsethief Trail System
- Navajo Rocks Mountain Bike Trail System

- Magnificent 7, 7-Up, Getaway and other mountain bike trails in the Gemini Bridges area
- Gold Bar Rim Trail
- Portal Trail
- Klondike Bluffs Mountain Bike Trail System
- Baby Steps Trail
- Klonzo Trail System
- Moab Brands Mountain Bike Trail System
- Amasa Back Mountain Bike Trail System
- Jackson Trail
- Hunter Canyon Rim
- Pipe Dream Trail
- Raptor Route Trails: Hawks Glide, Falcon Flow, Kestrel Run
- Kokopelli Trail – 3 miles of non-motorized singletrack trail

**Fisher Mesa, Lower Porcupine Rim Singletrack and the Eagle Eye portion of the Raptor Route would not be included due to portions within U.S. Forest Service. The Porcupine Rim Singletrack Trail and Hidden Valley Trail would not be considered as they are within a Wilderness Study Area.*

What steps must the BLM complete for e-bike use to be allowed on a designated non-motorized trail?

An authorized officer must issue applicable site-specific land use plan or implementation level decisions before e-bikes will be allowed on any road or trail that is not currently open to motorized use. The BLM will issue those decisions in accordance with applicable law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The current public scoping will initiate this process for the BLM MFO.

Are e-bikes allowed to be used to travel cross-country (e.g. not on a road or trail) on BLM MFO managed lands?

Within the BLM MFO, all bikes, including e-bikes, and motorized vehicles must remain on marked and designated trails and comply with all trail restrictions.

What are the “Rules of the Trail” when riding an e-bike?

Trail etiquette is the same for e-bikes as it is for traditional bikes. Trail etiquette practices are based on a general concept of consideration of other trail users, and protection of the trail and surrounding natural resources. Key concepts include:

- following any posted trail rules and best practices such as speed limits and directional travel
- protecting the trail tread by staying off of the trail during wet or muddy conditions
- openly communicating with other trail users with a calm voice and/or non-obtrusive bells
- use of helmets and personal audio devices that allow you to hear other trail users and wildlife
- use passing techniques that are considerate of other trail users and that do not result in trail widening
- ride in small groups that do not negatively impact other trail users experience.

How can I participate in the public scoping?

Starting October 1, 2024, through November 1, 2024, public scoping comments can be submitted through the project page on the BLM’s ePlanning website: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2034672/510>.