



ROARING FORK VALLEY HORSE COUNCIL

P O Box 127

Snowmass, CO 81654

[www.rfvhorsecouncil.org](http://www.rfvhorsecouncil.org)

[www.facebook.com/keephorsesontrails/  
rfvhc.Colorado@gmail.com](https://www.facebook.com/keephorsesontrails/rfvhc.Colorado@gmail.com)

June 6, 2020

To the BLM Regarding e-bikes –

Thank you for soliciting comments from citizen user groups regarding this potential change to BLM policy regarding of e-bike travel on BLM regulated trails. The RFVHC represents the horseback riding user group in our area and we are eager to respond. We thank you in advance for your interest. It is our understanding that BLM can decide locally how to respond to this potential change in trail use and we would here explain our viewpoint.

Our organization's mission is to advocate for safe trail experiences for the horseback riding user group. We feel strongly that a change to allow e-bikes on BLM trails is not safe for the traditional horse and hiker trail user groups for the following reasons:

1. E-Bikes move faster than any other permitted user group and therefore create a speedy and quiet approach to vulnerable hikers and horses when those traditional trail users deserve a peaceful and safe experience. The introduction of e-bikes to BLM trails would cause significant safety issues to all users of unmanageable proportions.

2. These vehicles are definitely motorized, and we feel strongly that allowing them negates all the previous work done for trail management separating non-motorized from motorized. This management process has been successful, and the invention of e-bikes does not warrant change. Such a change would undermine decades of funding, planning and constructing non-motorized trail networks safe for horses and hikers.
3. Our organization strongly opposes changing the classifications that violate common sense – any propulsion beyond human power is motorized. Allowing current e-bike models risks entering a slippery slope of motorized invasion at virtually silent high speeds by an e-bike technology that is evolving every day.
4. E-Bikes are a rapidly developing motorized technology and no current categorization will be valid for long. Allowing the current e-bike models risks entering a slippery slope of motorized invasion at virtually silent high speeds by an e-bike technology is changing every day. E-Bikes represent a culture of faster and farther that is not compatible with preserving natural landscapes and values. Motorized e-bikes should be kept with other motorized users.
5. “Not everyone has to go everywhere”, said a Grand Junction BLM official and we strongly believe BLM is not obligated to make trail use possible for all.
6. E-bikes would make it easier to recreate for numerous potential users but ‘easier’ is not the point of preserving our natural areas. Being fit enough to pedal a regular mountain bike is not elite but a choice made by an individual. Our concern is maintaining safe and conflict-free experiences for current users, horsemen and hikers.
7. Introducing a developing motorized technology would result in such an influx of all bikes into natural BLM terrain that the confusion created by such an assault might result in all bikes being banned due to dangerous user conflicts far beyond what multi-users - mountain bikes, horsemen and hikers - experience now. Crowded conditions are not acceptable in natural areas – that’s why they’re called natural.

8. All government land managers have worked with designated boundaries and the introduction of e-bike's 'farther and faster' threatens all those boundaries. E-bikes would threaten territory under other government agency's management areas including state, county and USFS where traditional horse and hiker use has already been threatened by standard mountain bikes.
9. Trail-by-trail designation has been suggested but we respond that such designations, coupled with the fluid categorization of e-bike types, would result in unmanageable chaos and impossible compliance enforcement. BLM tells us that it does not have the budget to enforce current trail user designations, more would be impossible to enforce.

**In conclusion, the Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council advocates for no increased e-bike use on BLM trails for the safety of all current users as well as allowing the BLM to continue working with currently permitted users without the chaos of increasing and invasive technologies.**

Thank you for reading our opinion.

Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council  
Board of Directors

Susan Cuseo – Secretary & Trails Chairman  
Karin Reid Offield -- President & Marketing Chair  
Rheta Fulton – Vice President & Events Chairman  
Alexandra Anwyl-Davies – Treasurer  
Leslie Thomas – Special Projects  
Marty Schlumberger – Western Heritage Chairman  
Holly McLain – Communications Chairman  
Dr. Sam Johnson – Education & Equine Health Chairman

*The Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit*