



peopleforbikes

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February 25, 2022

Christopher Pipkin  
BLM Grand Junction Field Office  
Attn: North Fruita Desert Trails Master Plan  
2815 H Road,  
Grand Junction, CO 81506

Dear Christopher Pipkin,  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the North Fruita Desert Trails Master Plan project on BLM lands located in Grand Junction, CO.

On behalf of the PeopleForBikes Coalition, I am writing in support of the Bureau of Land Management's efforts to develop new recreation opportunities and manage public land to adapt to changing technologies and recreation patterns. We support the authorization of mountain bikes and pedal-assist Class 1 electric bicycles on all proposed and existing trails within the North Fruita Desert Trails project.

The PeopleForBikes Coalition is the national advocacy group and industry association that works for better policies and infrastructure for bike riding. We strive to make bike riding a safer and more inclusive activity for everyone, including those that ride electric bicycles.

PeopleForBikes supports the goal of the North Fruita Desert Trails Master Plan, of maintaining and creating more recreational trails, as new natural surface single-track trail construction is urgently needed to help support existing levels of recreation on public lands. We applaud the allowance of bicycling on new and existing trails and are pleased that mountain biking will be considered as part of the Proposed Action. Federal land management agencies are critical to recreation infrastructure, as many of the best mountain biking and bicycling trails in the U.S. are on federal public lands. We are also happy to see that pedal-assist Class 1 electric bicycles are being considered under the Proposed Action. Existing research from the USDA Forest Service and the East Zone Connectivity and Restoration Project in Tahoe National Forest indicates that pedal-assist Class 1 electric bicycles can be successfully incorporated into trails with non-motorized uses.<sup>1</sup> The East Zone Connectivity's decision notice included the designation of 35 miles of existing non-motorized trails as open for Class 1 electric bicycles and determined that their access on the trails did not significantly alter public enjoyment or affect the patterns of use on the trails for Class 1 electric bicycle recreation.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. I would welcome the opportunity to provide further information on the potential for creating more trails for use by bicyclists, mountain bikers, and pedal-assist Class 1 e-bikes on federal public lands.

Sincerely,

Rachel Fussell  
eMTB Policy & Program Manager  
PeopleForBikes Coalition  
rachel@peopleforbikes.org

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<sup>1</sup> USDA Forest Service. "Tahoe National Forest East Zone Connectivity and Restoration Project Draft Decision Notice." (2021).