



E-bikes and Trails:

Measuring Impact and Acceptance of Class 1 E-bikes on Trails

Presentation Overview

Relevant legislation

JCOS study design

Current findings

Decision on Class I on JCOS
paved trails

E-bike demo

Discussion





HB 17-1151

Defines 3 classes of electrical assisted bicycles

Class 1: 750w/20mph speed cut off, no throttle

Class 2: 750w/20mph speed cut off, throttles allowed

Class 3: 750w/28mph speed cut off, no throttle

Requires classification labeling (1/1/2018)



HB17-1151

Effective August 9

Defines where they can be used

"42-4-1412. Operation of bicycles and other human-powered vehicles. (14) (a) (I) A person may ride a class 1 or class 2 electrical assisted bicycle on a bike or pedestrian path where bicycles are authorized to travel."



Although not gas or diesel powered, the e-bicycle does have a *motor* that enables powered assistance for its riders and thus is defined as a motor vehicle by BLM.

BLM policy designates trails for specific uses (e.g. horseback riding, hiking, motor vehicles, mounting biking, etc.). E-bicycles, having motors and being defined as motor vehicles by the BLM, are permitted only on trails where motor vehicles are allowed. The use of e-bicycles on non-motorized routes is prohibited.

Bureau of Land Management
Grand Junction Field Office



HB 17-1151

Impacts paved trail inventory

Allows local jurisdictions to prohibit use



Study Design

Focus on visitor engagement

Measuring attitudes,
perceptions and acceptance



Study Design

Pre- and post-demo survey

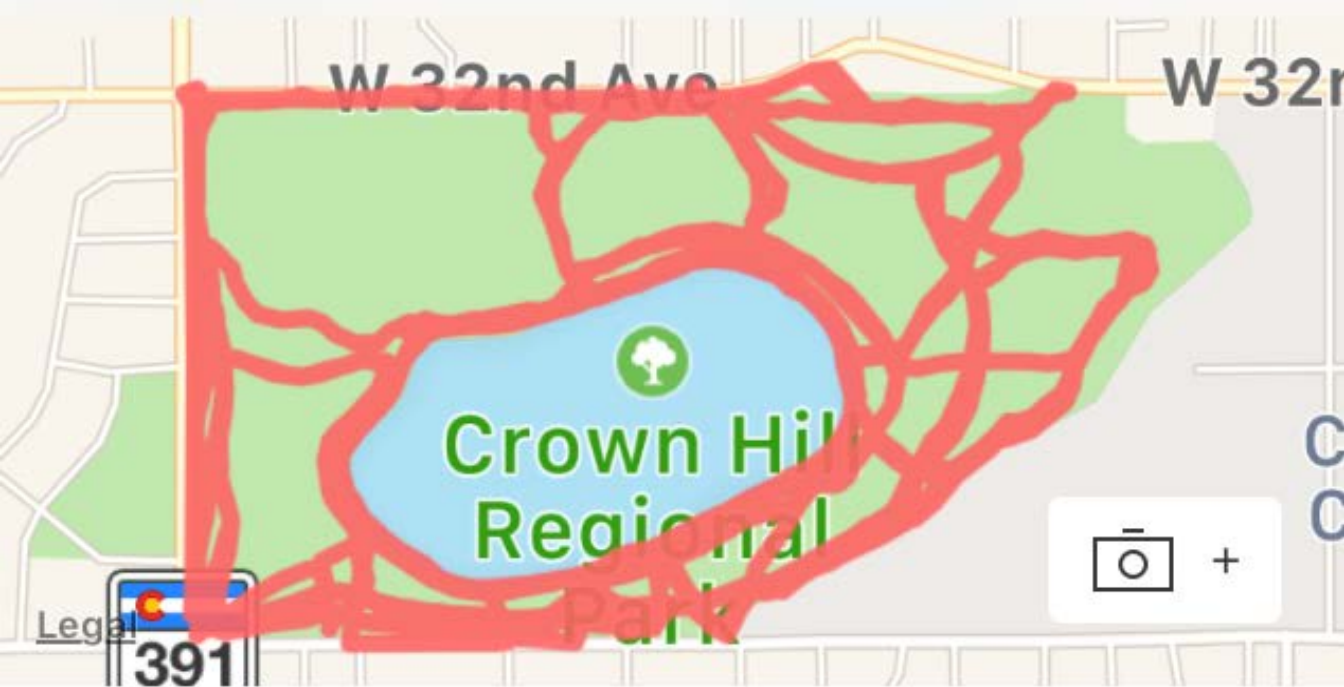
Does exposure change
perception?



Study Design

Visitor intercept survey

Attitudes, acceptance, and detection



27.7 mi

DISTANCE

309

ELEV GAIN

2:08:10

TIME

950

CALORIES



Study design

Ghost riders

CROWN HILL PARK



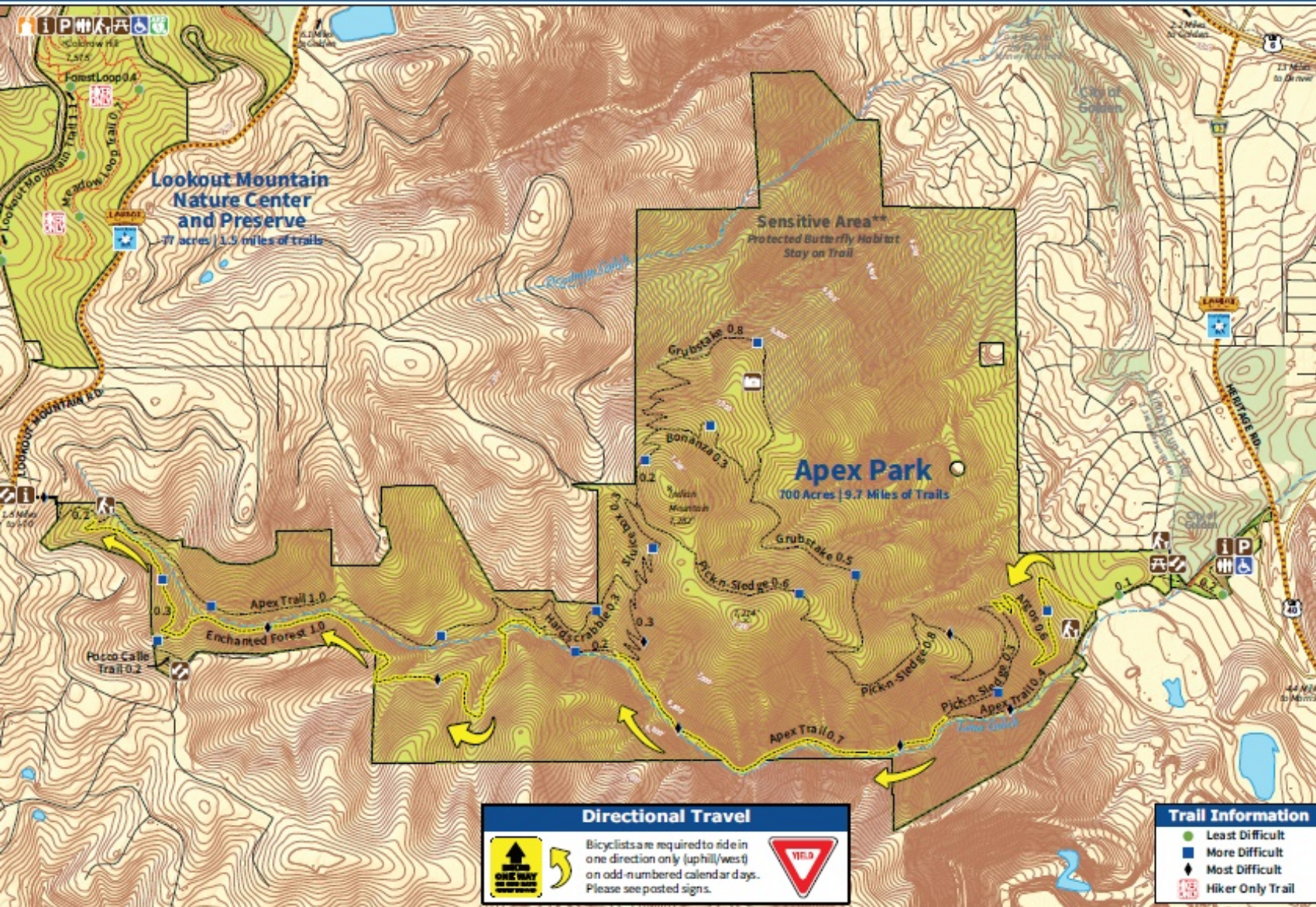


JEFFERSON 
COUNTY COLORADO
Open Space

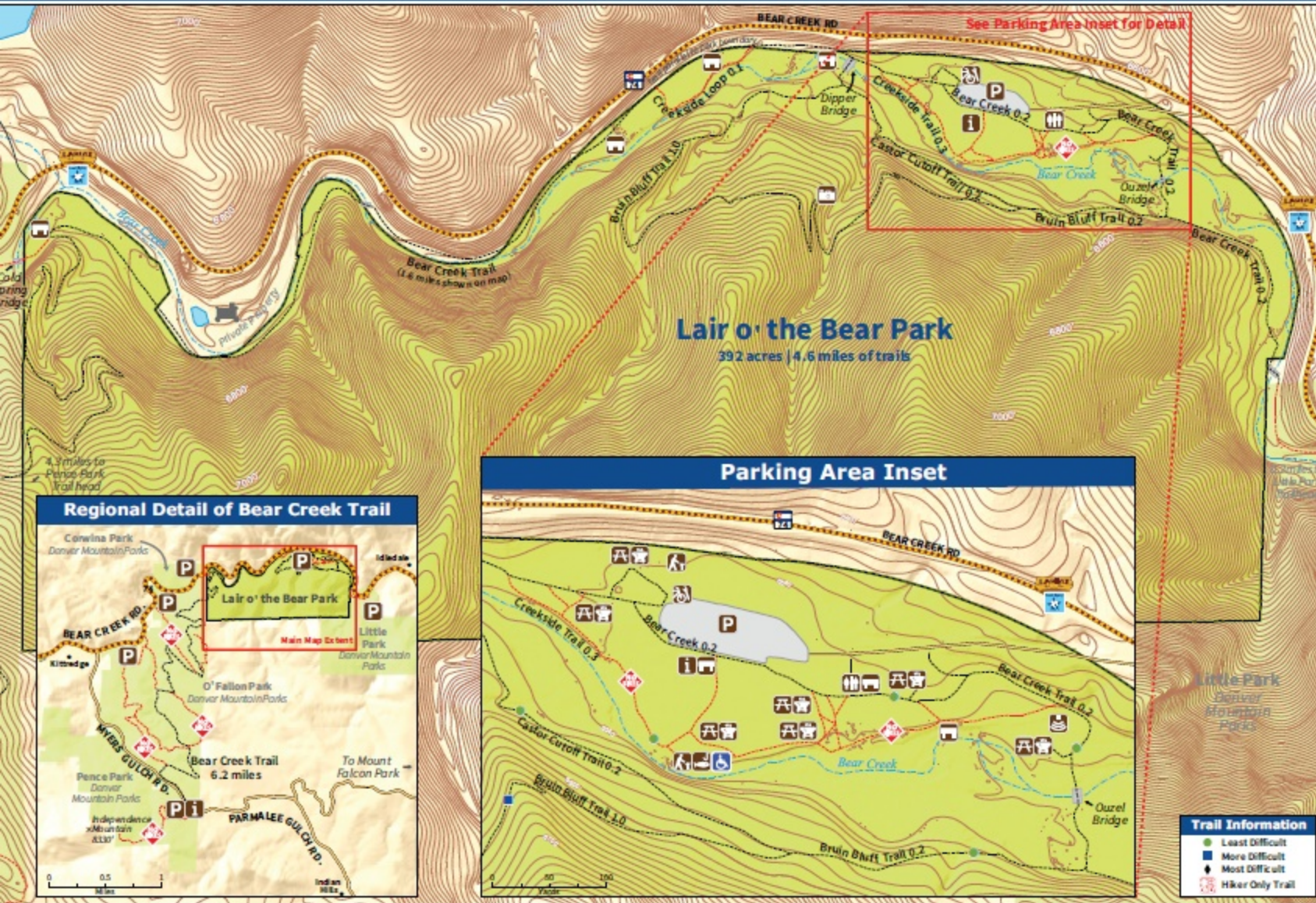


JEFFERSON 
COUNTY COLORADO
Open Space

APEX PARK



LAIR O' THE BEAR PARK

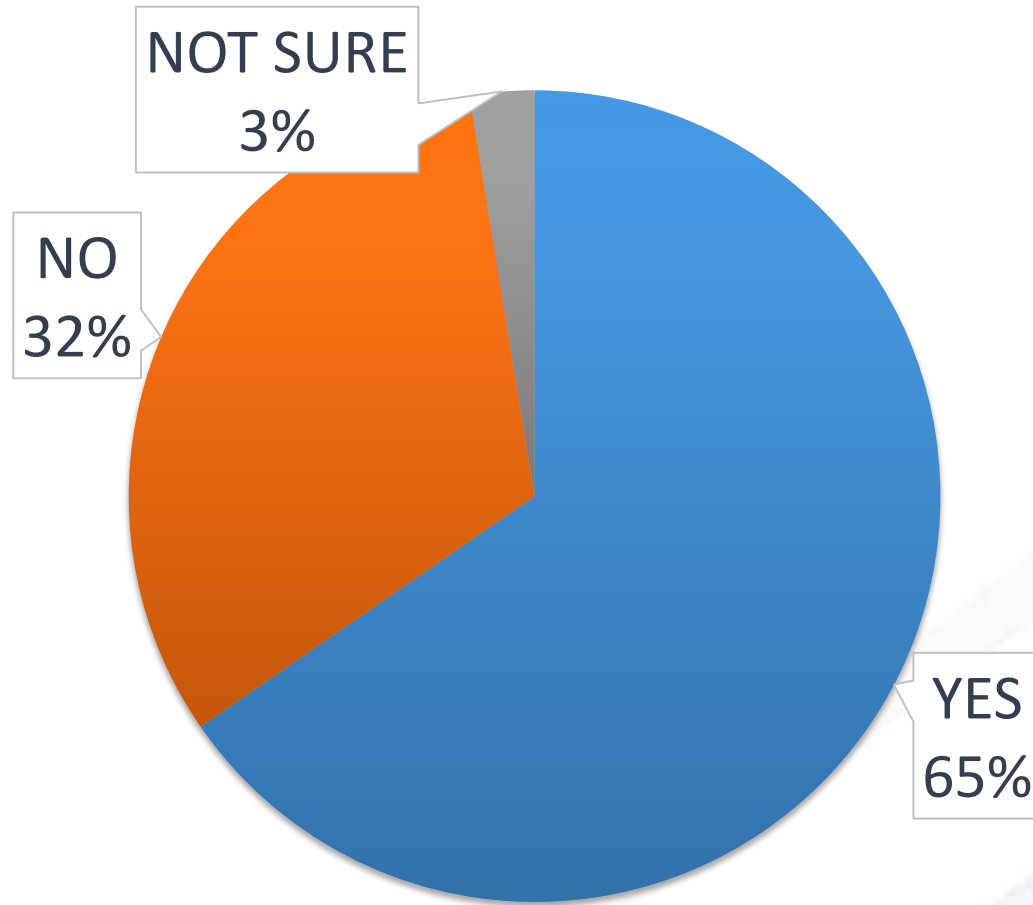




Study Results

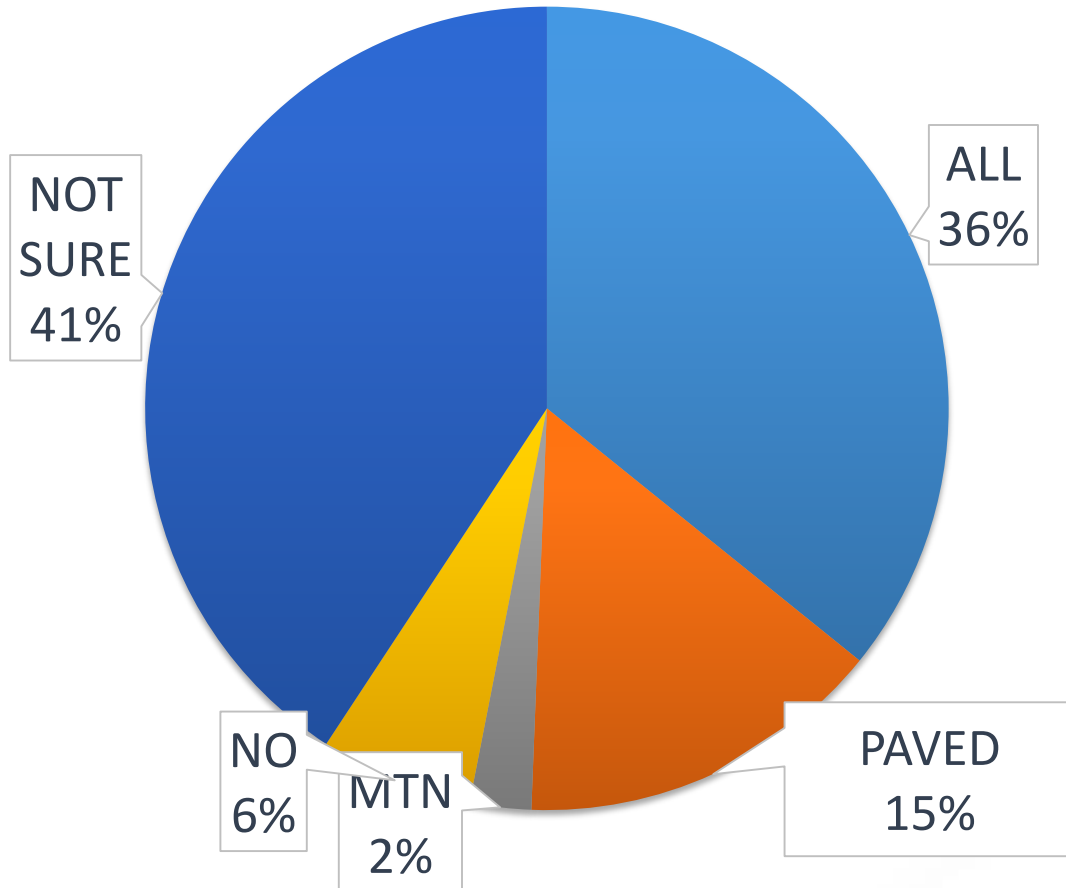
Pre- and Post-test ride

Did test ride change perception? (n=81)

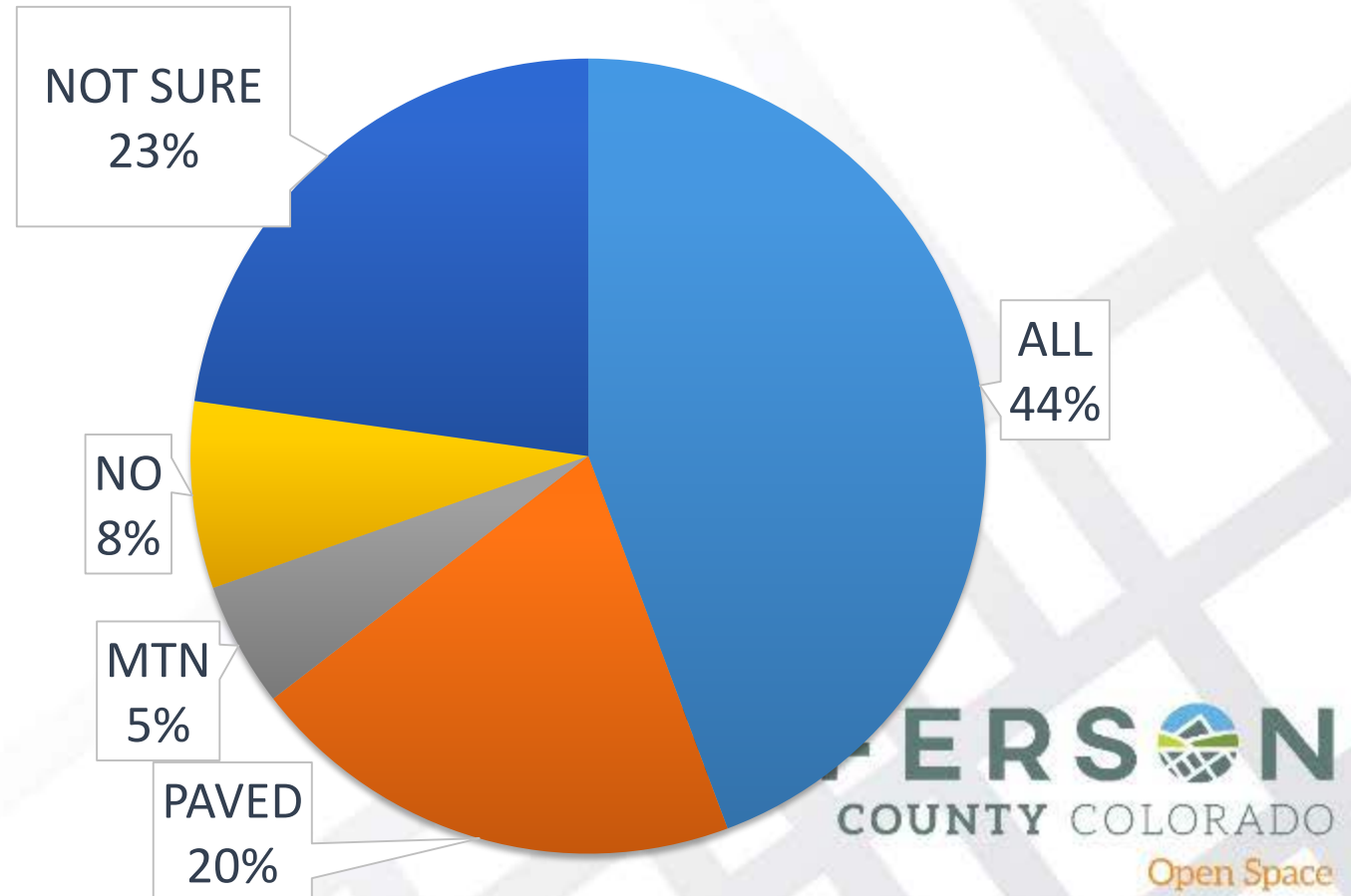


Approval before and after demo (n=81)

Approve use by trail type BEFORE



Approve use by trail type AFTER

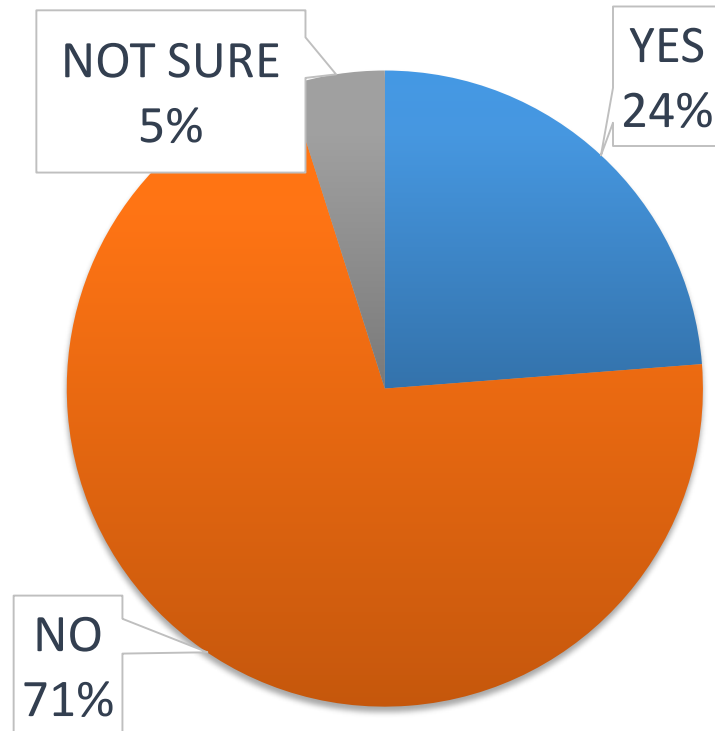




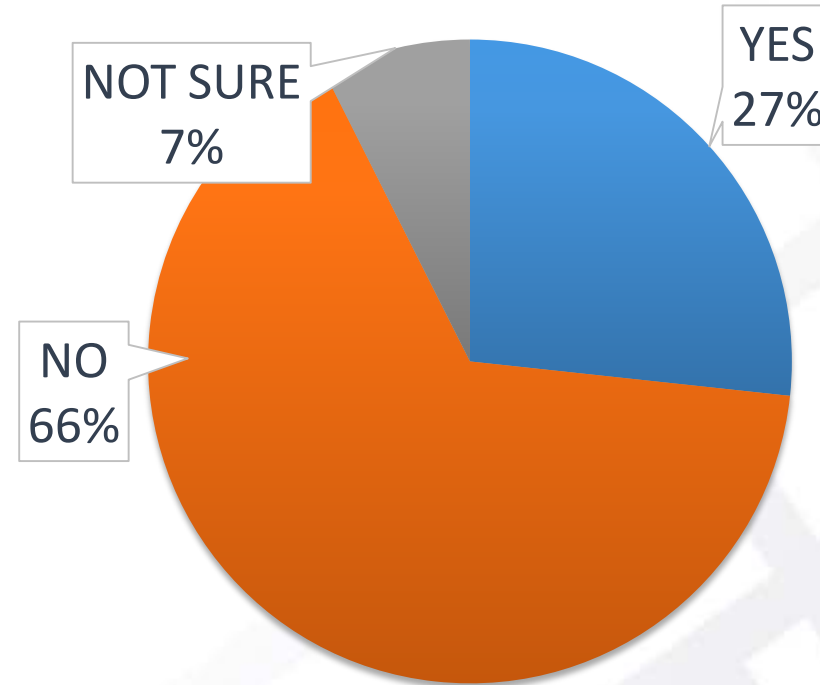
Study Results

Visitor intercept survey

Ability to detect?

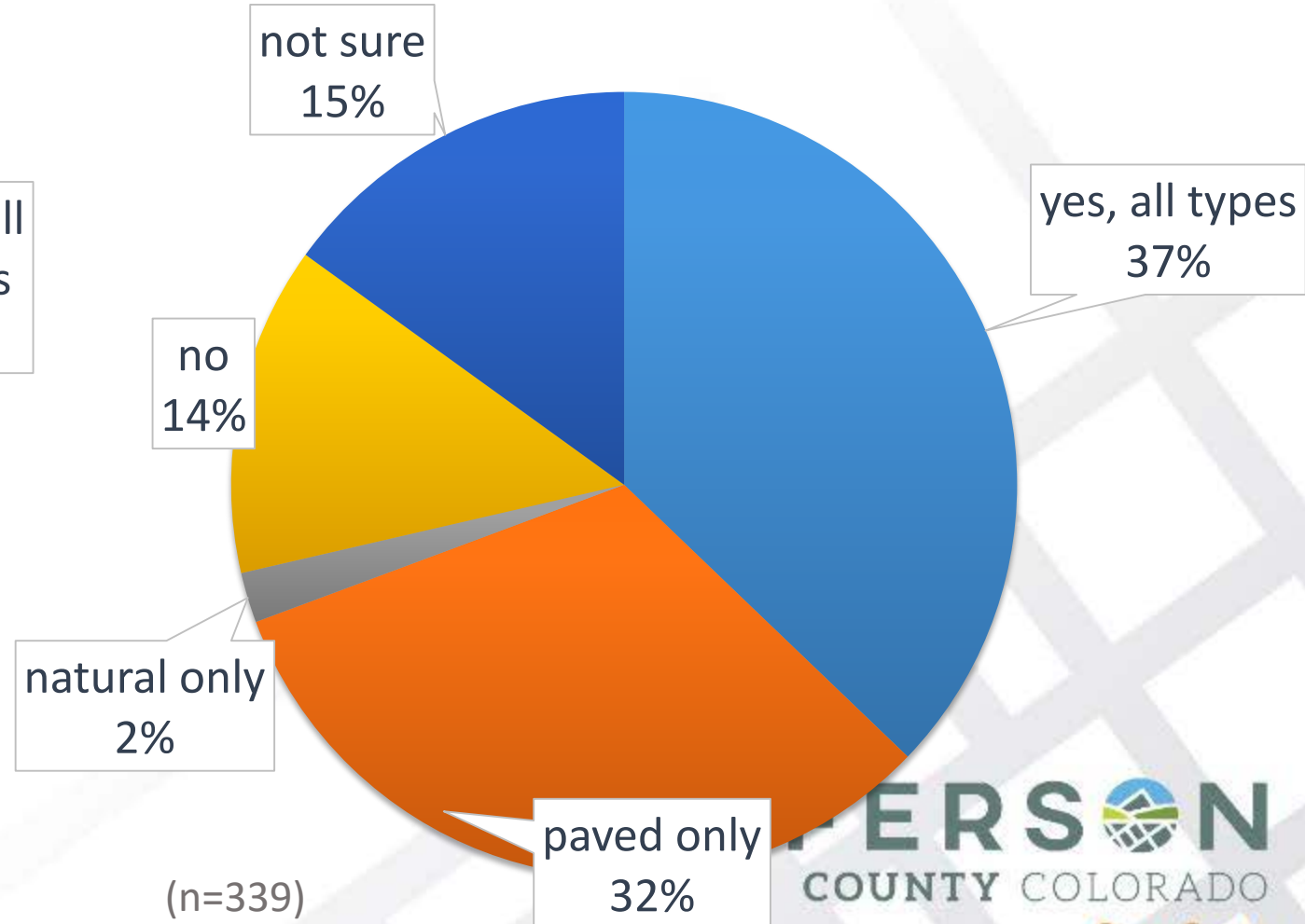
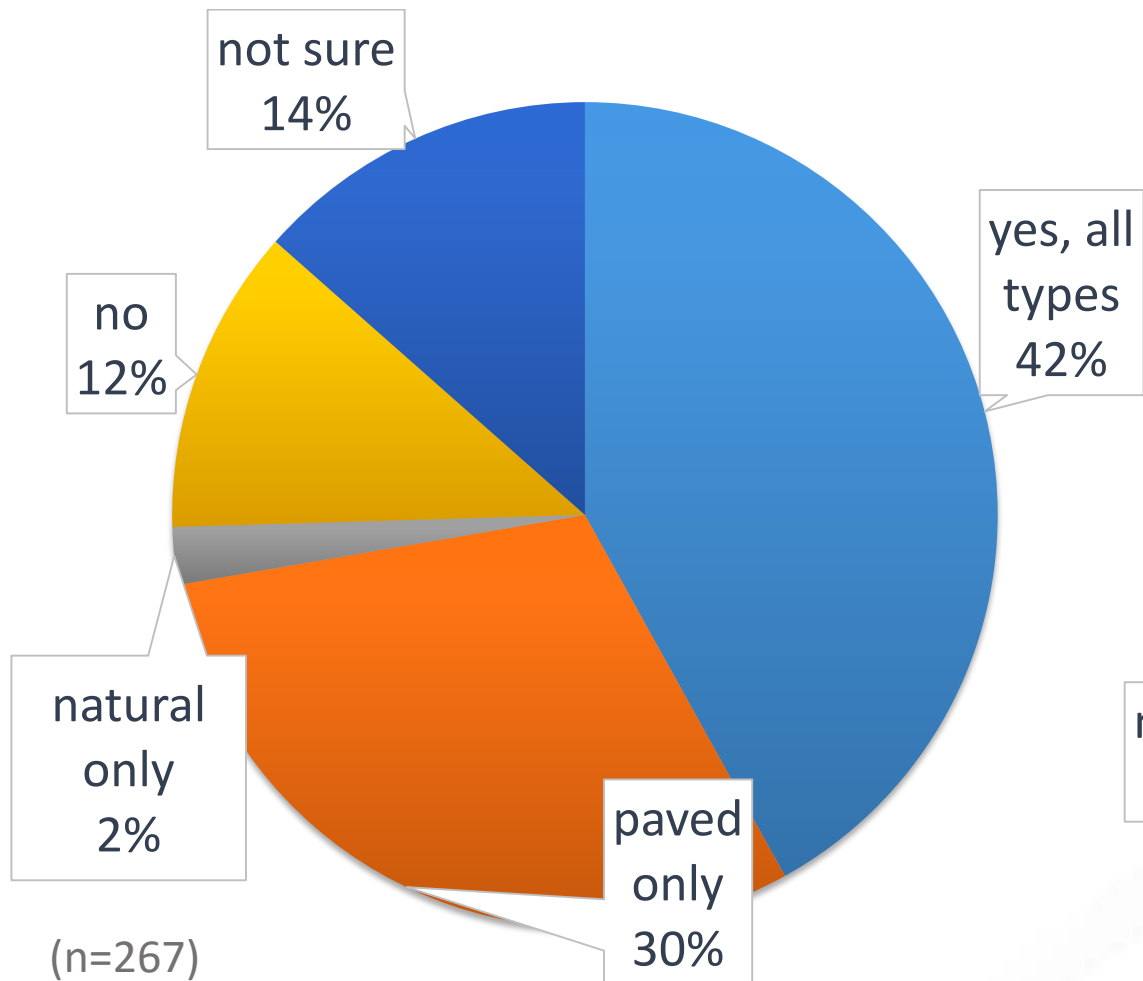


(n=267)



(n=339)

Acceptance by trail type





August 9 JCOS decision

Class I on paved trails



Response Themes

Speed & safety

Pre-existing conditions

General bike hate

Accessibility

Apathy

Slippery slope

Ego

Love at first ride

Response Themes: speed and safety

NO e-bikes they are not SAFE.

Too much speed without speed knowledge.

Too fast for unskilled riders.

Too much silent speed.

Response Themes: pre-existing conditions

Would put much more traffic on already crowded trails.

It's the rider more than the bike.

It's already too crowded.

If you are an *sshole on a regular bike, then you will be an *sshole on an e-bike.

Young males are the problem.

Response themes: general bike hate

Discourteous riders are a problem, e-bike or not.

We encountered many bikes who failed to yield. A test on bike courtesy should be required for all riders.

We never heard one biker announce themselves the entire hike.

I have concerns about bikes in general, not just e-bikes.

I prefer parks without bikes.

I don't like being around bikes. It's annoying.

I don't want to share the trail with any bikes.

Response themes: accessibility

Too much power to novice riders.

Opens up opportunities for more people.

I'm an avid cyclist with a torn ACL. E-bikes give great opportunities for those that aren't able to see beautiful parks.

Cyclists already struggle to maintain our reputation. One accident could cause a ban or significant restriction.

These could end up restricting access for other riders.

People without skill set riding in conditions they can't handle.

Response themes: apathy

If rider is responsible, not worried.

No more risk than a regular bike.

No reason to restrict.

They are still bikes, you know?

As long as riders aren't knuckleheads, we will all be fine 😊.

A bike is a bike.

If a bike is allowed, e-bike should be ok.

I am not concerned.

Response themes: slippery slope

I'd worry about powered vehicles of any type on natural surface trails.

Please don't allow e-bikes. Keep the trails motor free.

Not appropriate. No motors.

What's the point? Electric does not belong on trail.

A motor is a motor.

Response themes: ego

Seems like cheating.

Why would any able-bodied rider choose to ride one of these?

[e-bikes] should not be a gateway [to trails] for beginners.

I want them to be clearly identified, so I can feel good about myself when one passes me.

Not good. This makes MTB accessible to the general public.

It is a privilege to be on the trail on your own power.

It's straight up cheating.

Response Themes: love at first ride

Love it. Perfect machine.

I want one.

Amazing bikes. This would be a fantastic addition to Jeffco.

Great fun.

They are so quiet, unobtrusive and fun!



Discussion



What's next?