

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2020 2:48:50 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I ride in an area that is managed by the City of Phoenix (South Mountain). I am also the President of the Central Arizona Mountain Bike Patrol - we assist the land managers (the City of Phoenix) with all things trail/visitor related, including trail maintenance and park user interaction for several different ride areas.

We have noticed that since Class 1 E-bikes have been allowed on the trails, there is significantly more erosion and "loose trail" conditions in sections where the trail is steep and/or tight switchbacks. We have hypothesized that the trails are being damaged by E-bikes.

Our assessment is that when the trail goes UP into a switchback, the added power of the E-bike causes the soil to get loosened from additional power being applied that normally isn't there. The E-bikes are tearing up the trails from their "non-human power".

We have also noticed that coming DOWN into a steep section or switchback, there is significantly more "loose conditions" due to additional braking that is necessary when riding a bike that is much heavier than normal bikes and one that can carry much more speed than is "usual". More speed requires more braking, and perhaps the majority of E-bikers are not experienced enough to know "no skidding".

We believe that E-bikes are harming the trails much more than previously thought and more research is needed, especially in places that get very little rain. The absence of precipitation and the addition of E-bikes is causing significant future erosion problems that could lead to dangerous conditions.

Sincerely,

Daniel Ryan

President

Central Arizona Mountain Bike Patrol