

Spokane County Parks E-Bike Advisory Survey

Survey Results Presentation & Staff Recommendation



Class 2 E-Bike Example



Class 1 E-Bike Example

What is an Electric-Assisted Bicycle?

E-bikes are defined by Washington State Law (RCW 46.04.169) under three categories:

Class 1 - an electric-assisted bicycle in which the motor provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty (20) miles per hour. ***Class 1 e-bikes provide pedal assistance only when a rider pedals.***

Class 2 - an electric-assisted bicycle in which the motor may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle and is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty (20) miles per hour. ***Class 2 e-bikes can provide forward motion without pedaling.***

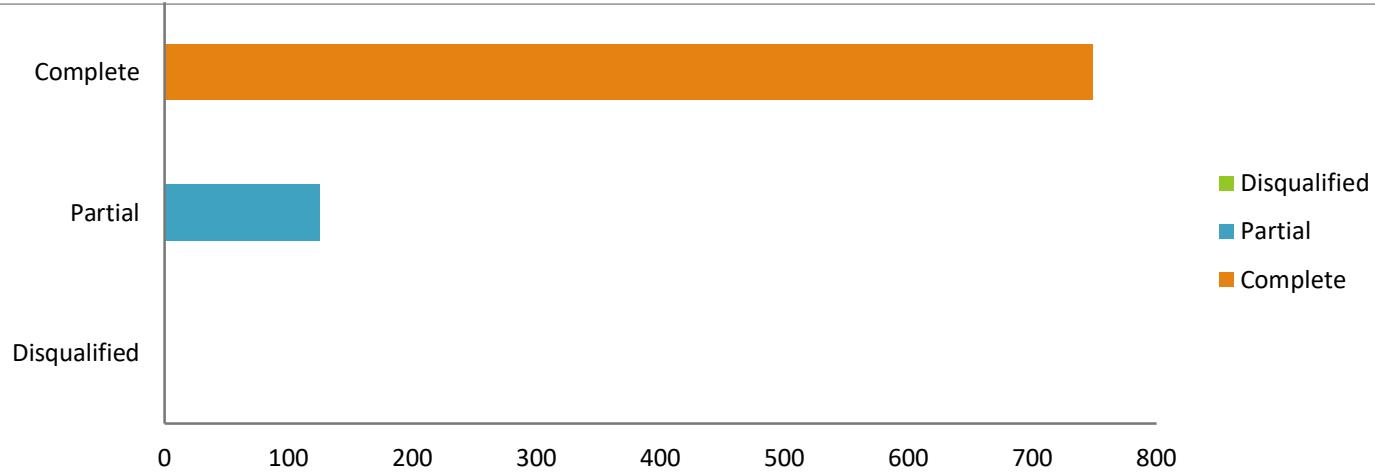
Class 3 - an electric-assisted bicycle in which the motor provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty-eight (28) miles per hour and is equipped with a speedometer. ***Class 3 e-bikes are similar to Class 1, but allow for a higher speed (28 mph vs 20 mph).***

What is an Electric-Assisted Bicycle?



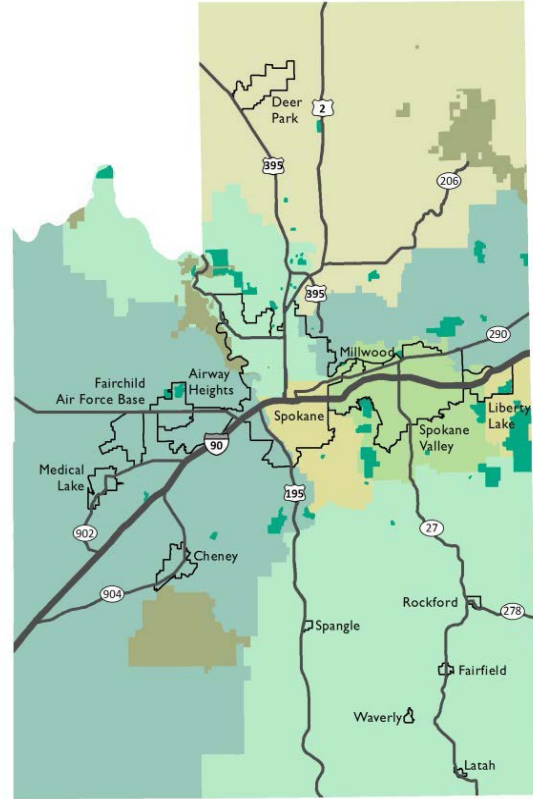
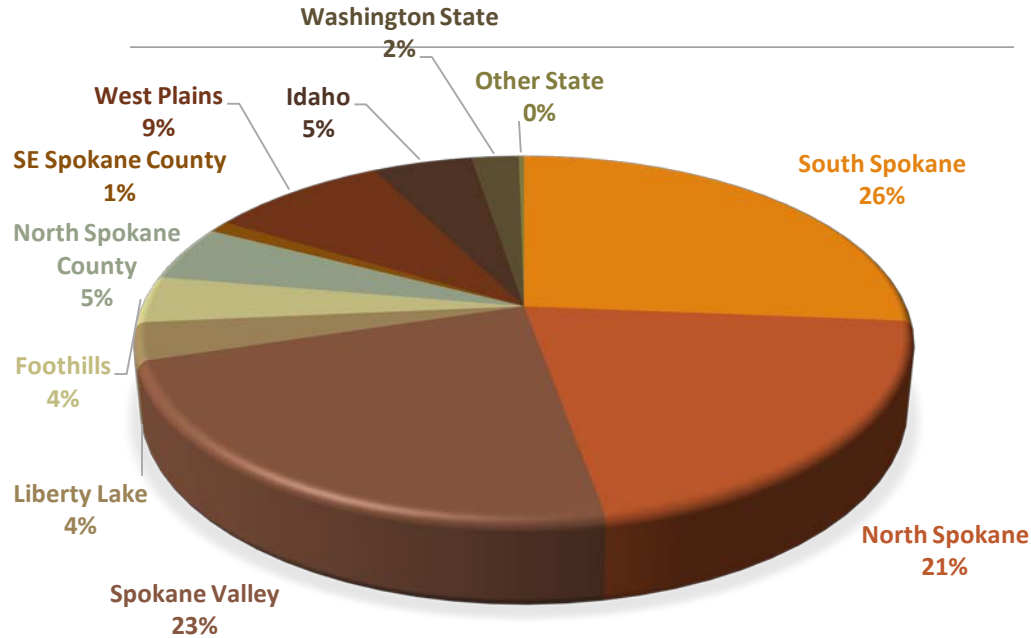
Spokane County E-Bike Advisory Survey

Respondents

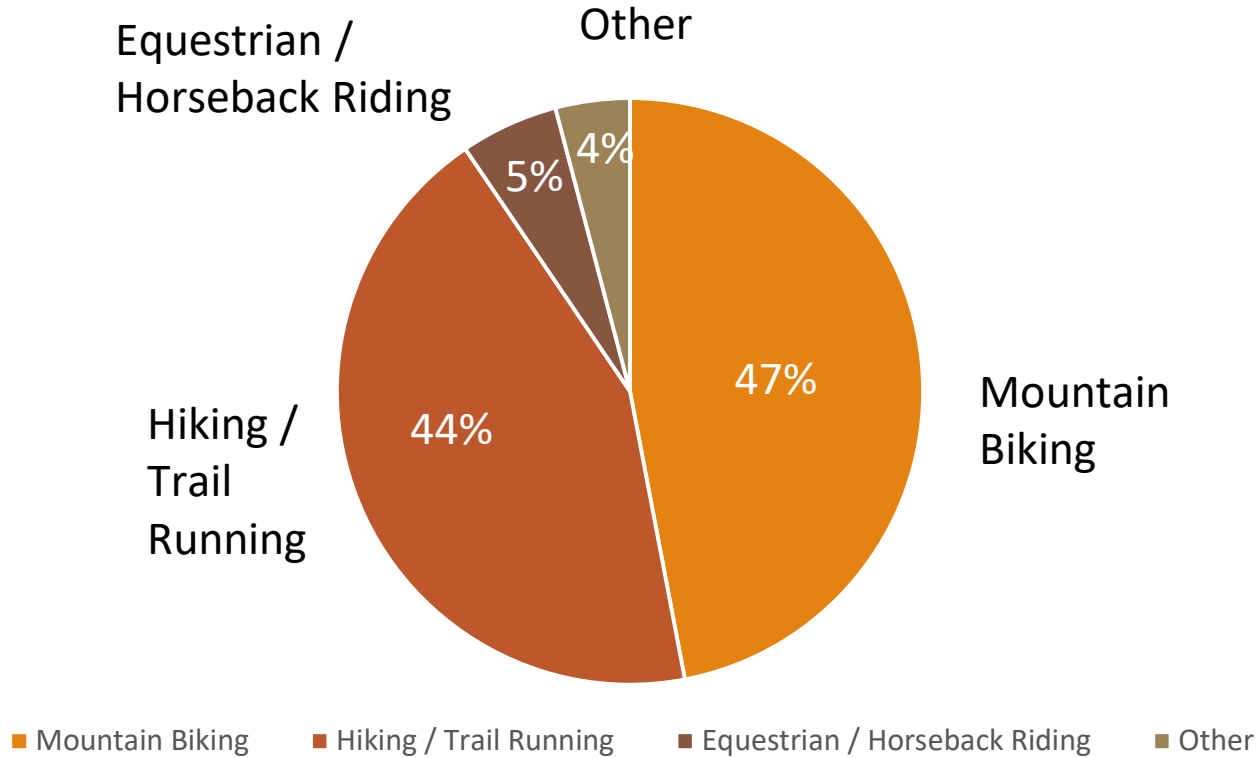


	Count	Percent
Complete	749	85.7
Partial	125	14.3
Disqualified	0	0
Totals	874	

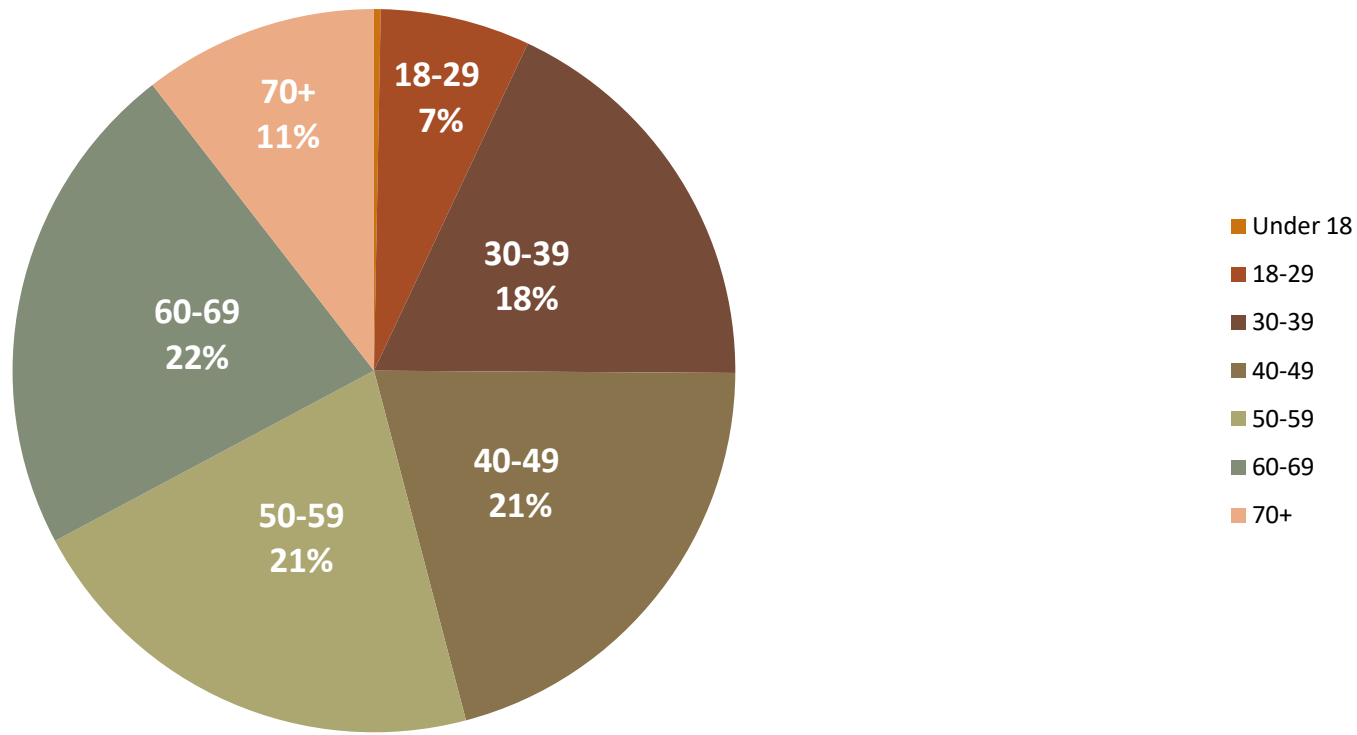
Please enter your zip code



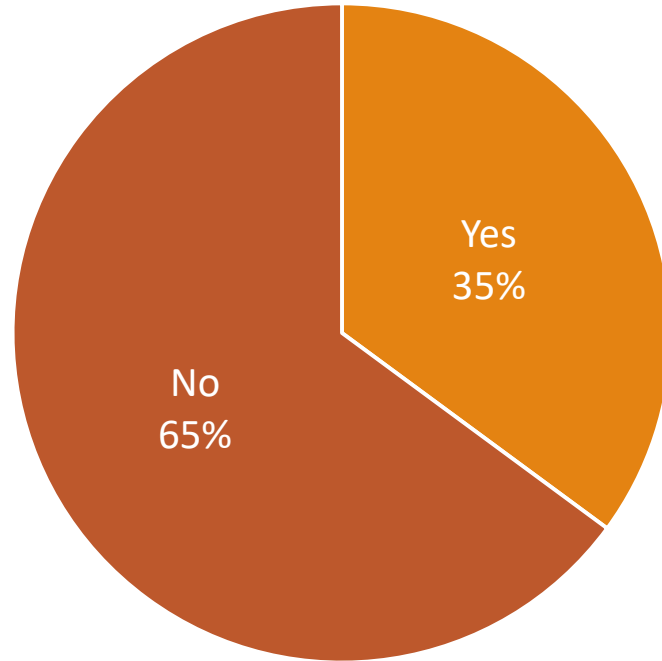
What is your primary trail-based recreational activity?



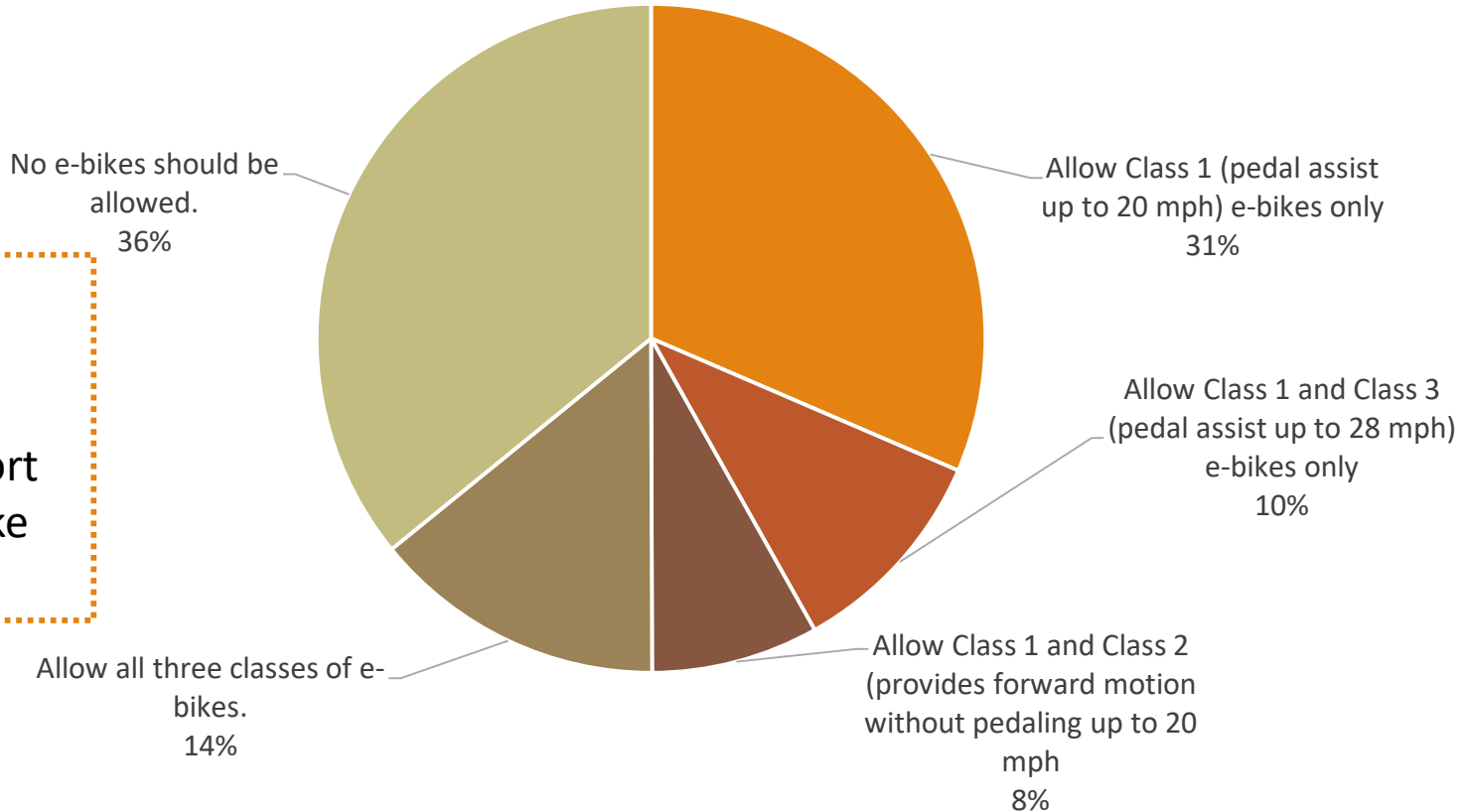
Please select the age range you fall into



Are you an e-bike owner or plan to purchase an e-bike in the near future?



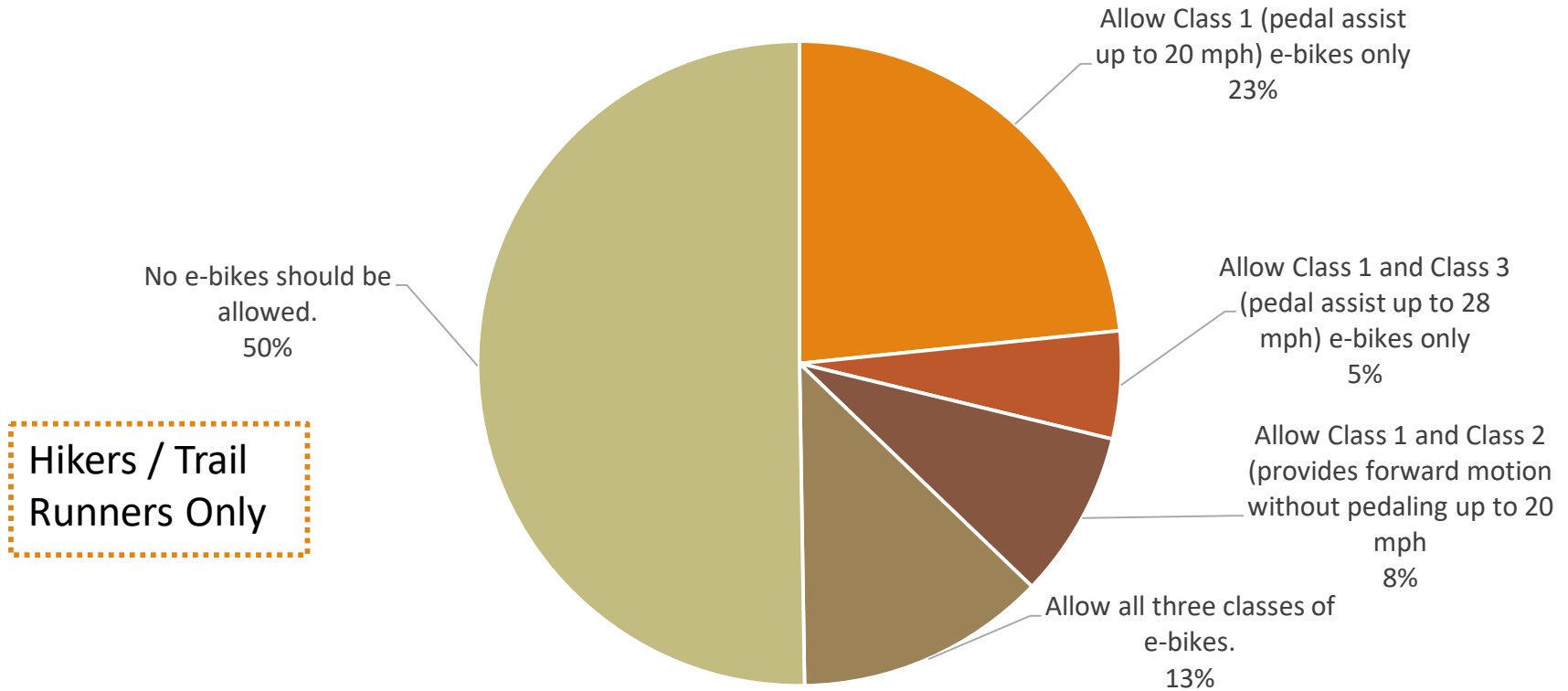
Which types of e-bikes should Spokane County allow on natural surface trails?



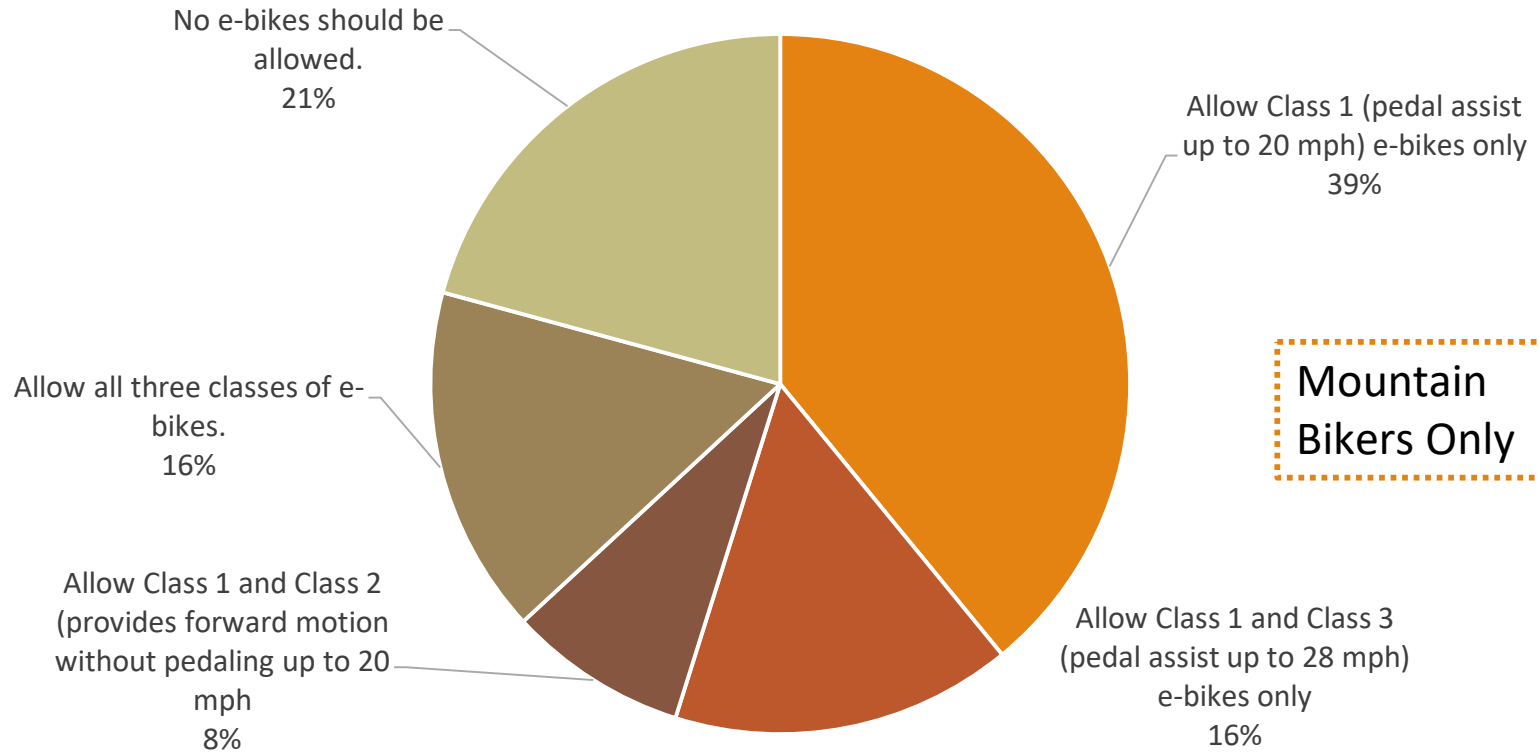
All Survey
Takers.

64% support
some e-bike
use.

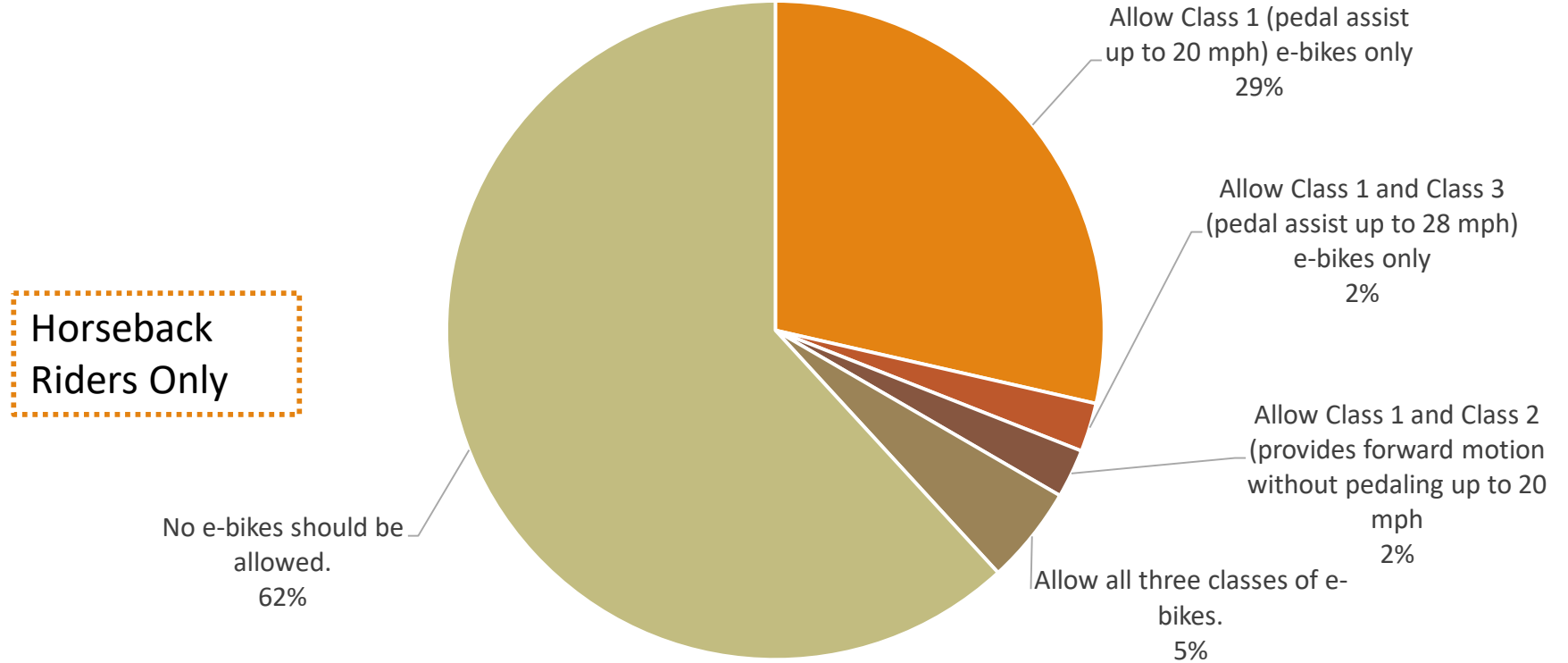
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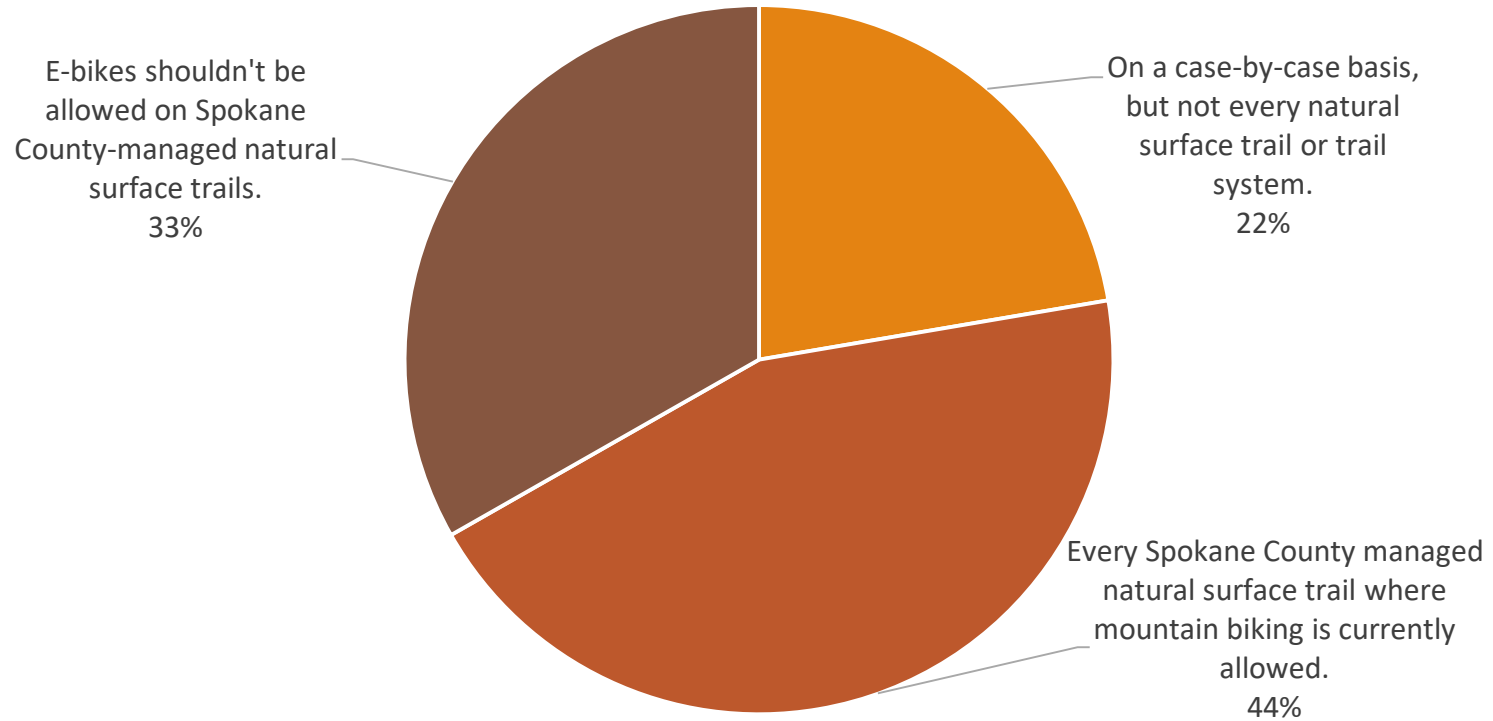
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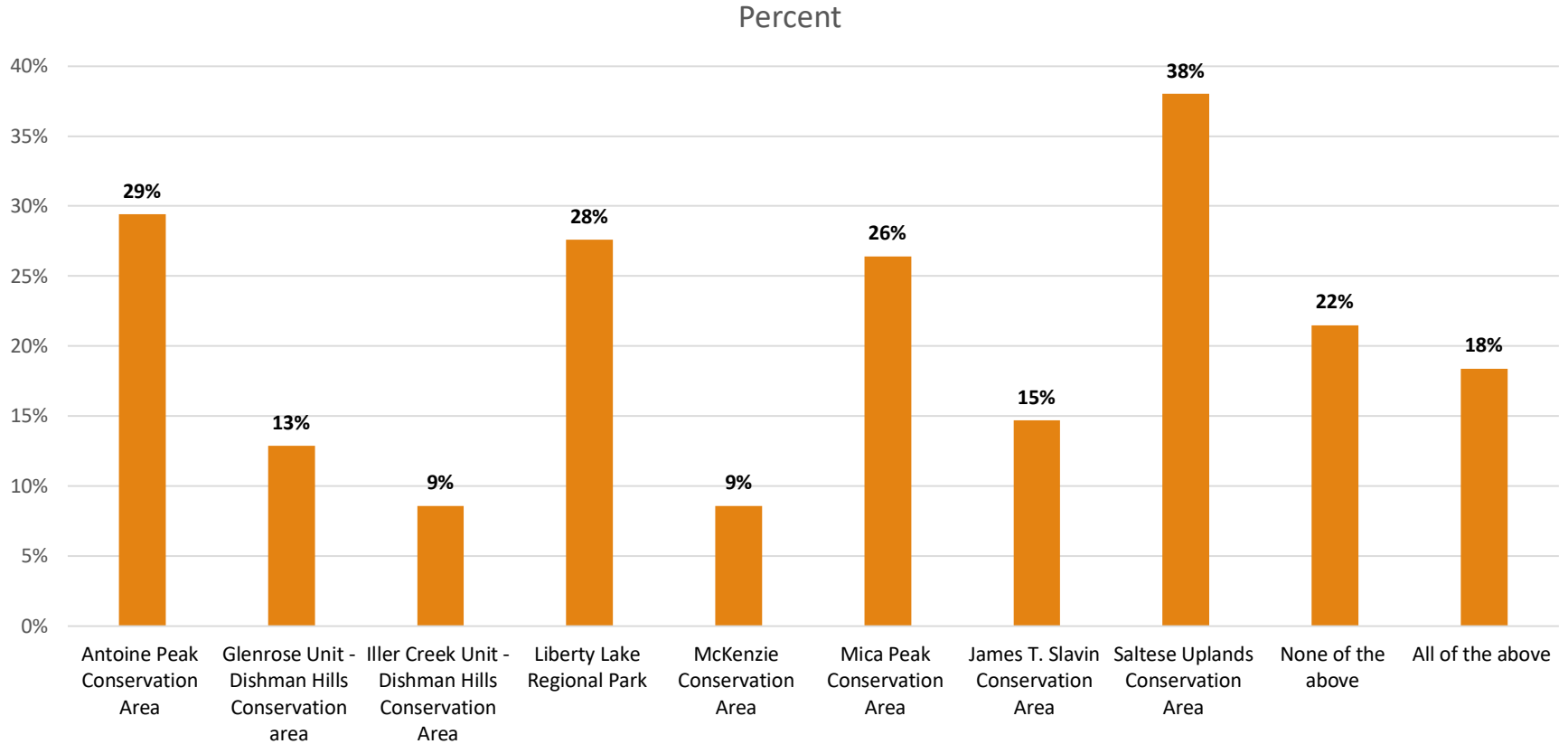
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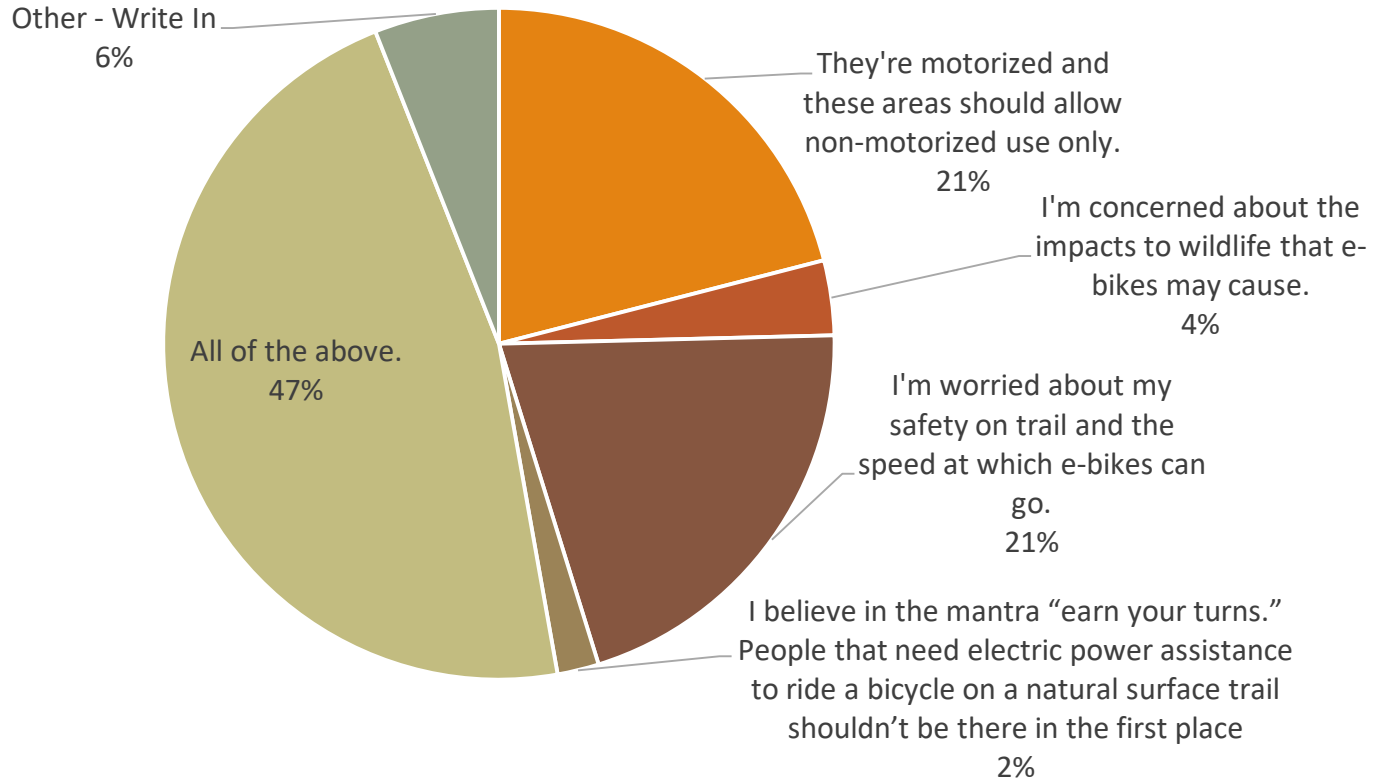
Where should e-bikes be allowed on Spokane County-managed natural surface trails?



Which Spokane County-managed natural surface trail systems do you believe are most suitable for e-bikes use?



In Question 6, you selected that Spokane County should not allow any class of e-bikes anywhere. Why shouldn't they be allowed on Spokane County-managed trail systems?




Do you have additional comments you'd like to share? Please do so here!



“I use my class 1 emtb to reach areas that I can no longer access due to age and disabilities. I have ridden non emtbs for 30 years. My class 1 emtb has no larger impact than a regular mt bike. I actually ride slower and more carefully due to the weight. However, my class 1 emtb allows me to do more trail maintenance since I can ride further in less time. Thank you for your consideration of class 1 ebikes.” – Respondent 93


Do you have any additional comments you'd like to share? Please do so here!

-  “I only travel to Spokane to ride and drink beer/eat food. I understand the need for e bike trails, but would start by saying no to all then decide slowly which individual trails you are fine with allowing motorized vehicles on. Honestly I probably would go to Spokane less and spend less money if all or most trails allow ebikes.” – Respondent 119

Do you have any additional comments you'd like to share? Please do so here!

■ “Please do not allow e-bikes on any natural surface trails! There are lots of little old ladies like me (age 68) who want to walk and hike safely outdoors without having to worry about being slammed into by some 250-pound guy going 20 mph on some electric bike! Seriously, the two are incompatible. I’ve been a hiker for many years and have seen many of my favorite places taken over by mountain bikers and Frisbee golf. I don’t want to lose the natural surface trails as well!” –Respondent 140

Do you have any additional comments you'd like to share? Please do so here!

 “I love to climb (100k+ Mtb biking and 100k+ trail running this year) and otherwise enjoy our amazing trails! I bought my wife a Levo SL (class 1) and now we ride together often. It has been incredible!! Our riding is comparable, almost equal, thanks to her pedal assist. She wouldn't join me otherwise. It has been an almost unbelievable blessing! ❤️” – Respondent 153

Do you have any additional comments you'd like to share? Please do so here!

- “Like not allowing motors/gas powered boat on all lakes, the idea of managed ebike access to select areas is a really good one! Preserves the bike experience and opportunities, one way and/or the other for everyone.” – Respondent 180

Do you have additional comments you'd like to share? Please do so here!

- “E-Bikes are giving physically un-fit people access to areas that they would not be able to safely exit without the aid of a motor. Our public lands should be open to human powered means only. E-bikers are increasingly defying known trail etiquette.” – Respondent 220

Additional Information / Public Input

“... I am writing to encourage... allow[ing] Class 1 electric bicycle access...wherever bikes are allowed. The results from your recent electric bicycle survey demonstrate local support for Class 1 electric bicycle access on natural surface trails. The adoption of this policy would be a fair and sensible decision, as Class 1 electric bicycles are similar to traditional bicycles.”

– Morgan Lommele, Director of State + Local Policy



peopleforbikes

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PeopleForBikes.org | 303.449.4893

Additional Information / Public Input

- Bike shops in this area are almost exclusively selling Class 1 E-Bikes.
- For electric mountain bikes, manufacturers are only manufacturing Class 1.
- No one but the motorized community supports Class 2.

– Chris Conley, President of East Chapter EMBA



Additional Information / Public Input

- Washington State Parks allows Class 1 and Class 3 e-bikes on single track non-motorized trails that allow conventional bicycles.
- Class 2 e-bikes are prohibited.
- E-bikes are not allowed on single-track, hiking-only trails.

– Randy Kline, Trails Program



So, Why Create E-Bike Regulations?

- Back in 2018, the Washington State Legislature passed a series of laws that legalized e-bike use on paved trails. For local jurisdictions such as Spokane County, the new law allows land managers to establish their own rules with regards to e-bikes on natural surface trails.
- E-bike use is prohibited on all Spokane County owned and managed natural surface trails because e-bikes were not a thing when the rules were written to safely manage natural surface trail use.
- E-bike use has grown significantly on Spokane County owned and managed parkland where mountain biking is popular.
- Greater potential for user conflict if left unregulated.

Proposed E-Bike Regulations for Spokane County's Natural Surface Trails

For Discussion Purposes

Spokane County Code 6.14 ("Park Code")

- Add all three classes (and all unclassified) electric-assisted bicycles to the definitions.
- Add a new section 6.14.110 – Regulation of Bicycles and Electric-Assisted Bicycles
 - Prohibit Class 2 and Class 3 e-bikes
 - Allow Class 1 e-bikes where approved by the Parks Director and posted at a trailhead
 - 10 MPH speed limit
- Penalty for violating this section: \$200.00 fine (civil infraction)

Let the discussion begin!

