

# **E-Bikes --- the ever- changing Landscape!**

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Resources Division**

**NAzT - September 18, 2023**



# Agenda



- **Some basic Ebike information**
- **What are other agencies doing?**
- **Latest Updates...Share Any That You Have!**

# Basic E-Bike – EMTB Information



- E-bikes are essentially a conventional bicycle, with a rechargeable electric battery and motor included. In Arizona, an E-bike is defined as a “motorized electric bicycle”
- Arizona Revised Statute (ARS 28-819) states that “an operator of an electric bicycle is granted all the rights and privileges and is subject to all of the duties of a person riding a bicycle,” which would include riding on bicycle and multi-use paths.
- While the State of Arizona has officially defined the e-bike classifications and operational expectations, local agencies have the power to enact regulations appropriate to their trail systems and open space areas.



### **CLASS 1**

A "Class 1 electric bicycle," or "low-speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.



### **CLASS 2**

A "Class 2 electric bicycle," or "low-speed throttle-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.



### **CLASS 3**

A "Class 3 electric bicycle," or "speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour, and is equipped with a speedometer.

# IMBA - Latest Graphics



## OVERVIEW OF E-MTB CLASSES

AN ELECTRIC BICYCLE IS DEFINED AS A "BICYCLE EQUIPPED WITH FULLY OPERABLE PEDALS AND AN ELECTRIC MOTOR OF LESS THAN 750 WATTS."



THERE ARE CURRENTLY THREE CLASSES OF EMTBS:

### CLASS 1

LOW-SPEED PEDAL-ASSISTED ELECTRIC BICYCLE with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling.

**20 MPH**  
E-ASSIST TOP OUT SPEED

### CLASS 2

LOW-SPEED THROTTLE-ASSISTED ELECTRIC BICYCLE with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle without pedaling.

**20 MPH**  
FULL THROTTLE  
E-ASSIST TOP OUT SPEED

### CLASS 3

SPEED PEDAL-ASSISTED ELECTRIC BICYCLE with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling.

**28 MPH**  
E-ASSIST TOP OUT SPEED

## E-BIKES ON NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

KNOW BEFORE YOU BUY, KNOW BEFORE YOU RIDE. ONLY CERTAIN E-BIKES ARE ALLOWED ON CERTAIN TRAILS.

E-BIKE ACCESS ON TRAILS DIFFERS TRAIL TO TRAIL AND ACROSS LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES, COMMUNITIES, REGIONS, AND STATES. BE SURE TO CHECK WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS TO BE SURE YOUR E-BIKE IS ALLOWED BEFORE HITTING THE TRAILS.

CLASSIFIED ELECTRIC BICYCLES/ELECTRIC MOUNTAIN BIKES (E-MTBs)			UNCLASSIFIED ELECTRIC BICYCLES/E-MTBs	ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLES	OTHER ELECTRIC VEHICLES
CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 750 watt motor or less</li> <li>• Pedal Assist only</li> <li>• Max motor assisted speed of 20 mph</li> <li>• No throttle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 750 watt motor or less</li> <li>• Pedal Assist and a throttle</li> <li>• Max motor assisted speed of 20 mph</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 750 watt motor or less</li> <li>• Pedal Assist only</li> <li>• Max motor assisted speed of 28 mph</li> <li>• No throttle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motor greater than 750 watts</li> <li>• Unrestricted motor assisted speed with pedal assist</li> <li>• Unrestricted motor assisted speed with throttle</li> <li>• Multi-class ride modes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powerful motors capable of speeds of 40-50 mph and faster</li> <li>• Throttle</li> <li>• Foot pegs or aftermarket pedal kits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-bike electric vehicles (one wheels, e-scooters, etc)</li> </ul>

### WHERE CAN EACH E-BIKE/E-MTB MOST COMMONLY BE RIDDEN?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class 1 ebikes/ e-MTBs are most likely to be allowed on nonmotorized trails</li> <li>• Motorized trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motorized trails</li> <li>• Class 2 ebikes/ e-MTBs are generally not allowed on non-motorized trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motorized trails only</li> <li>• Class 3 e-bikes /e-MTBs and gravel bikes are not allowed on nonmotorized trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motorized trails only</li> <li>• Tracks and skills courses open to motorized vehicles</li> <li>• Unclassified e-bikes/ e-MTBs are considered motorized and are not allowed on nonmotorized trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motorized trails only</li> <li>• Tracks and skills courses open to motorized vehicles</li> <li>• E-motorcycles are considered motorized and are not allowed on nonmotorized trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motorized trails only</li> <li>• Tracks and skills courses open to motorized vehicles</li> </ul>
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### AN E-BIKE/E-MTB IN EACH CATEGORY MIGHT LOOK LIKE....



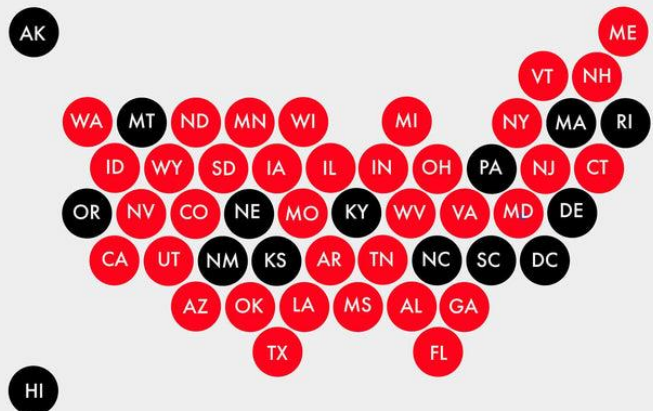
LEARN MORE

TrailsAreCommonGround.org



# E-BIKE Regulations By State

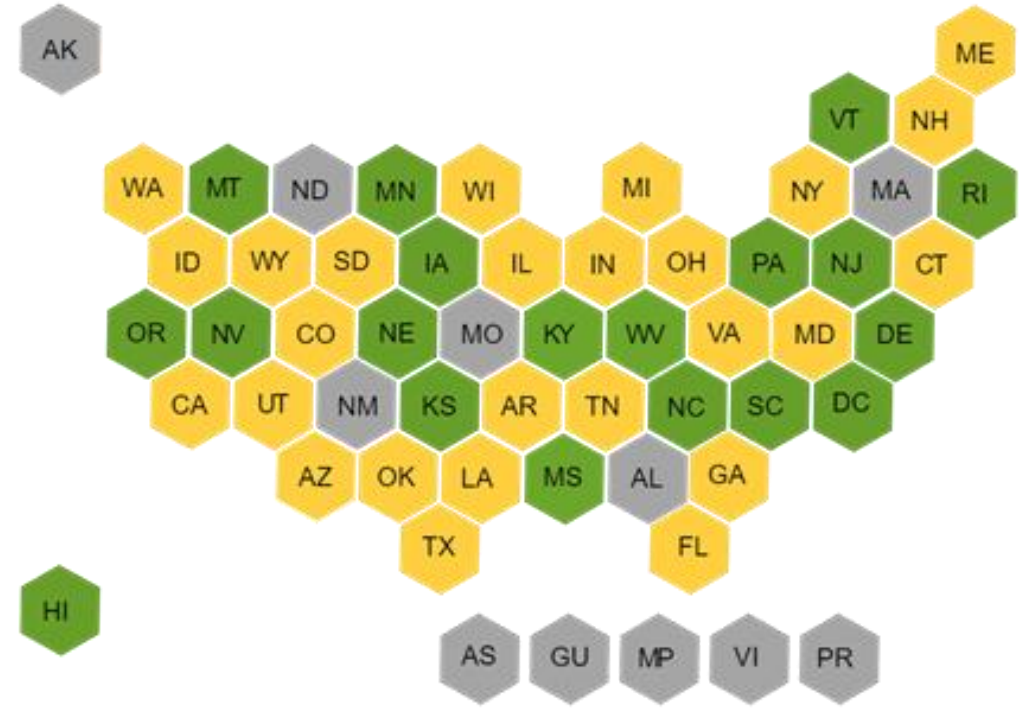
All fifty states and Washington, D.C. define e-bikes in some capacity:



● 3 Class System    ● Non-Tiered Categorization



## States That Define an Electric Bicycle

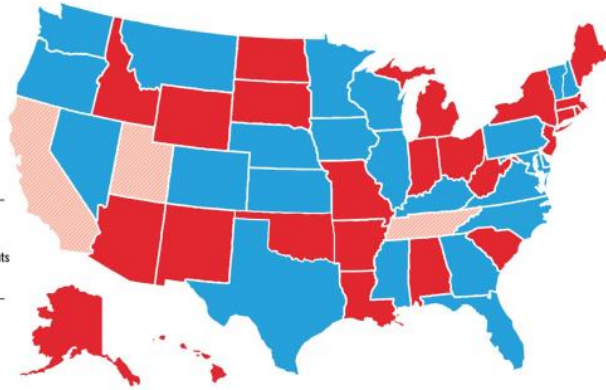


Legend	
<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Defines e-bike
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	Defines e-bike and has a three-tier classification system
<span style="color: grey;">■</span>	No definition

# People for Bikes – Regulation Opinion Over the Last 5 Years or so...

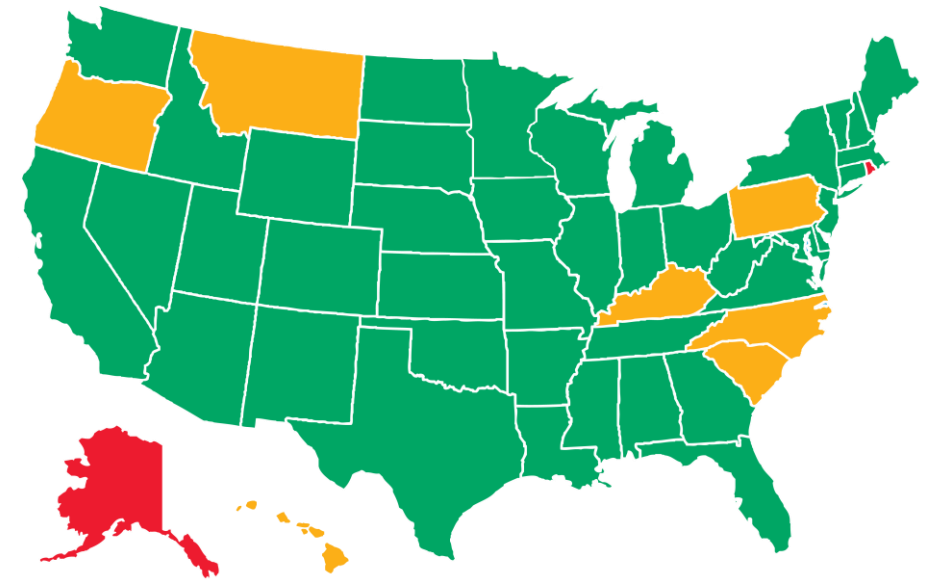
## E-BIKE REGULATIONS

<b>ACCEPTABLE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Regulated as a bicycle</li> <li>» Passengers allowed</li> <li>» No age minimum</li> <li>» No licensing or registration required</li> <li>» Can use existing bike infrastructure</li> </ul>
<b>PROBLEMATIC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Regulated as a moped or motor vehicle</li> <li>» Confusing equipment + use requirements</li> <li>» Confusing licensing + registration requirements</li> <li>» Confusing access to bike infrastructure</li> </ul>
<b>MODEL LEGISLATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» PFB and BPSA have enacted our model law, which defines and regulates three classes of e-bikes.</li> </ul>



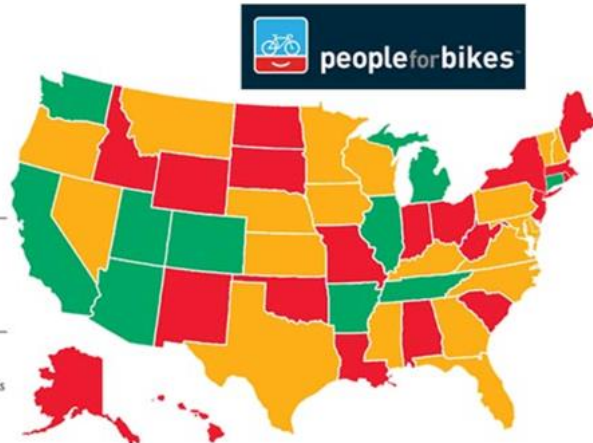
## ELECTRIC BICYCLE RULES FOR THE ROAD

<b>MODEL LEGISLATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» States that have enacted PeopleForBikes' model law, which defines and regulates three classes of electric bicycles within states' motor vehicle codes, gives riders similar rights and duties to that of traditional bicycle riders.</li> </ul>
<b>ACCEPTABLE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Regulated as a bicycle</li> <li>» Passengers allowed</li> <li>» No age minimum</li> <li>» No licensing or registration required</li> <li>» Can use existing bike infrastructure</li> </ul>
<b>PROBLEMATIC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Regulated as a moped or motor vehicle</li> <li>» Confusing equipment + use requirements</li> <li>» Confusing licensing + registration requirements</li> <li>» Confusing access to bike infrastructure</li> </ul>



## ELECTRIC BICYCLES E-BIKE REGULATIONS

<b>MODEL LEGISLATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» PFB and BPSA have enacted our model law, which defines and regulates three classes of e-bikes.</li> </ul>
<b>ACCEPTABLE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Regulated as a bicycle</li> <li>» Passengers allowed</li> <li>» No age minimum</li> <li>» No licensing or registration required</li> <li>» Can use existing bike infrastructure</li> </ul>
<b>PROBLEMATIC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Regulated as a moped or motor vehicle</li> <li>» Confusing equipment + use requirements</li> <li>» Confusing licensing + registration requirements</li> <li>» Confusing access to bike infrastructure</li> </ul>



# What are other agencies doing?

(If anything?)





# Management of eMTB's - agency review

- **How eMTBS are Currently Managed**

- Currently, eMTBs are not defined or dealt with consistently across land management agencies. Be it local, state or federal land, it is always best to check with the land management agency current eMTB access.
- **State-based eMTB regulations**: E-bike laws are different in every state. Find your state's information [here](#).
- **Bureau of Land Management**: E-bikes are allowed on trails limited to bicycles and non-motorized travel only if a BLM Manager has issued a written decision authorizing e-bike use. New rules were finalized [in October 2020](#). Contact your local BLM office for more information.
- **National Park Service**: Before visiting an NPS unit, visitors are encouraged to check the park website to find out what areas of the park are accessible and which facilities are open. Upon arrival, visitors can obtain additional information at the Visitor Center or a Ranger Station.
- **Bureau of Reclamation**: E-bike riders should check with their [nearest local office](#) in order to determine if a specific location or trail has been opened to electric bicycle use.
- **Fish and Wildlife**: E-bike riders should check with their [local wildlife refuge](#) before riding to ensure that no restrictions have been imposed.
- **U.S. Forest Service**: Regulations categorize eMTBs as a “motorized” use. Therefore, on USFS land, eMTBs are only permitted where motorized vehicles are allowed. New rules were finalized [in March 2022](#).



Electric bicycle laws are different in every state, and can be confusing for riders, retailers, and suppliers. PeopleForBikes is making riding an electric bicycle easy and accessible for all by working to create clear rules on how and where people can ride electric bicycles. With more coherent laws: Local bicycle shops and manufacturers see increased business and their customers will no longer be confused, people who already ride electric bicycles more easily understand where to ride, and new riders who may be discouraged from riding a traditional bicycle due to limited physical fitness, age, disability or convenience have improved transportation alternatives. [Electric Bikes | PeopleForBikes](#)

# Local Area Stances

- **Phoenix:** Currently follows state guidance, allowing Class 1 and 2 E-bikes natural surface trails (eMTB). Other agencies that allow eMTB's:
  - Maricopa County Parks
  - Arizona State Parks
  - Flagstaff
  - Federal property that allows motorized use
- Areas that specifically do NOT allow eMTB's:
  - Scottsdale - McDowell Sonoran Preserve
  - The Arizona Trail
  - Federal Wilderness Areas
  - Pima County



Some agencies/trail managers haven't taken a specific stance at all...

# Know Before You Go!

## What is your Agency Stance?

- Do they have one?
- Do you now what it is?
- Can you/your staff recognize an ebike on your trails?
- Can you tell the difference between classes?





**Electric Bikes Prohibited** - Electric bikes are not allowed in the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Electric bikes are motorized, and [Chapter 21](#) of the Scottsdale Revised Code prohibits motorized vehicles from being used in the Preserve, with the exception of motorized wheelchairs, or vehicles in designated trailhead parking areas.

## **Pilot Program?**

Some discussion regarding a pilot program that would provide a permit for those who can *prove* a true “need” to utilize an eMTB on the McDowell Sonoran Preserve trails.

- E-BIKES FAQ
- HIKING ON PUBLIC LANDS
- MOUNTAIN BIKING TOP 20
- OHVS ON PUBLIC LANDS
- ALASKA
- ARIZONA
- CALIFORNIA
- COLORADO
- EASTERN STATES
- IDAHO
- MONTANA-DAKOTAS
- NEVADA
- NEW MEXICO
- OREGON-WASHINGTON
- UTAH
- WYOMING



## Where Can I Ride My E-bike?

**Motorized areas and trails**

*SEARCH FOR AN OPEN OHV AREA OR MOTORIZED TRAIL TO RIDE YOUR E-BIKE.*

*BLM-managed public lands offer many opportunities for riding e-bikes, including any Open OHV area or motorized trail.*

**Non-motorized trails**

*CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BLM OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.*

*E-bikes are allowed on trails limited to bicycles and non-motorized travel ONLY IF a BLM Manager has issued a written decision authorizing e-bike use in*

## TOP PLACES TO RIDE

- [PEOPLE FOR BIKES WEBSITE RIDES AND ROUTES »](#)
- [GLADE RUN RECREATION AREA, FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO »](#)
- [HARTMAN ROCKS RECREATION AREA, GUNNISON, COLORADO »](#)
- [SLICKROCK NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL, MOAB, UTAH »](#)
- [MAP OF MOAB E-BIKE](#)

# MANAGEMENT AND USE OF ELECTRIC BIKES ON BLM-MANAGED LANDS

**IM 2023-051**

Instruction Memorandum

**August 1, 2023**

**IN REPLY REFER TO:**

8340 (HQ-430) P

**Post Date/EMS Transmission:** 08/08/2023

**Expires:** 09/30/2026

To: All Field Office Officials

Attn: Attn: State Directors, District Managers, Field Managers and Accessibility Coordinators

From: Assistant Director, National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships

Subject: Management and Use of Electric Bikes on BLM-managed Land

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this Instruction Memorandum (IM) is to 1) establish policy concerning the use of electric bikes (e-bikes) on Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-managed trails where mechanized use is allowed and off-road vehicle use is otherwise prohibited, and 2) implement the final e-bike rule that the BLM published in the *Federal Register* on November 2, 2020, 85 Fed. Reg. 69,206 (Nov. 2, 2020).<sup>[1]</sup>

**VIEW ALL POLICIES** >

**FISCAL YEAR**

2023

**Policy/Action:**

E-bikes are bicycles that contain an electric motor to provide power assistance to the rider and reduce the physical exertion required to propel the bike forward. They are motorized vehicles that are capable of, or designed for, travel on land or other natural terrain and, therefore, fall within the definition of off-road vehicle at 43 CFR 8340.0-5.

In November 2020, the BLM issued its e-bike rule, which 1) amended the BLM's off-road vehicle regulations to include a definition for e-bikes at 43 CFR 8340.0-5(j) and 2) created an authority by which authorized officers may allow e-bike use on trails where motorized vehicles are otherwise prohibited by excluding Class 1, 2, and 3 e-bikes from the definition of off-road vehicle. However, certain considerations warrant a cautious approach in the manner and situations where the rule is used.

First, as was highlighted in the preamble to the e-bike rule, the body of research on the impacts associated with e-bike use, and the compatibility of e-bikes with other uses of the public lands, is relatively limited and still developing. Over time, additional studies may be published that could provide a better understanding of the type and extent of resource impacts and user conflicts that result from e-bike use. Such studies would help better determine the accuracy of the e-bike rule's assumptions about the similarity of impacts from Class 1, 2, and 3 e-bikes and traditional, non-motorized bicycles. Additional studies will also help inform future BLM decision making about where and when it is appropriate to exclude Class 1, 2, and 3 e-bikes from the definition of off-road vehicle and allow e-bike use on trails where motorized vehicles are otherwise prohibited.

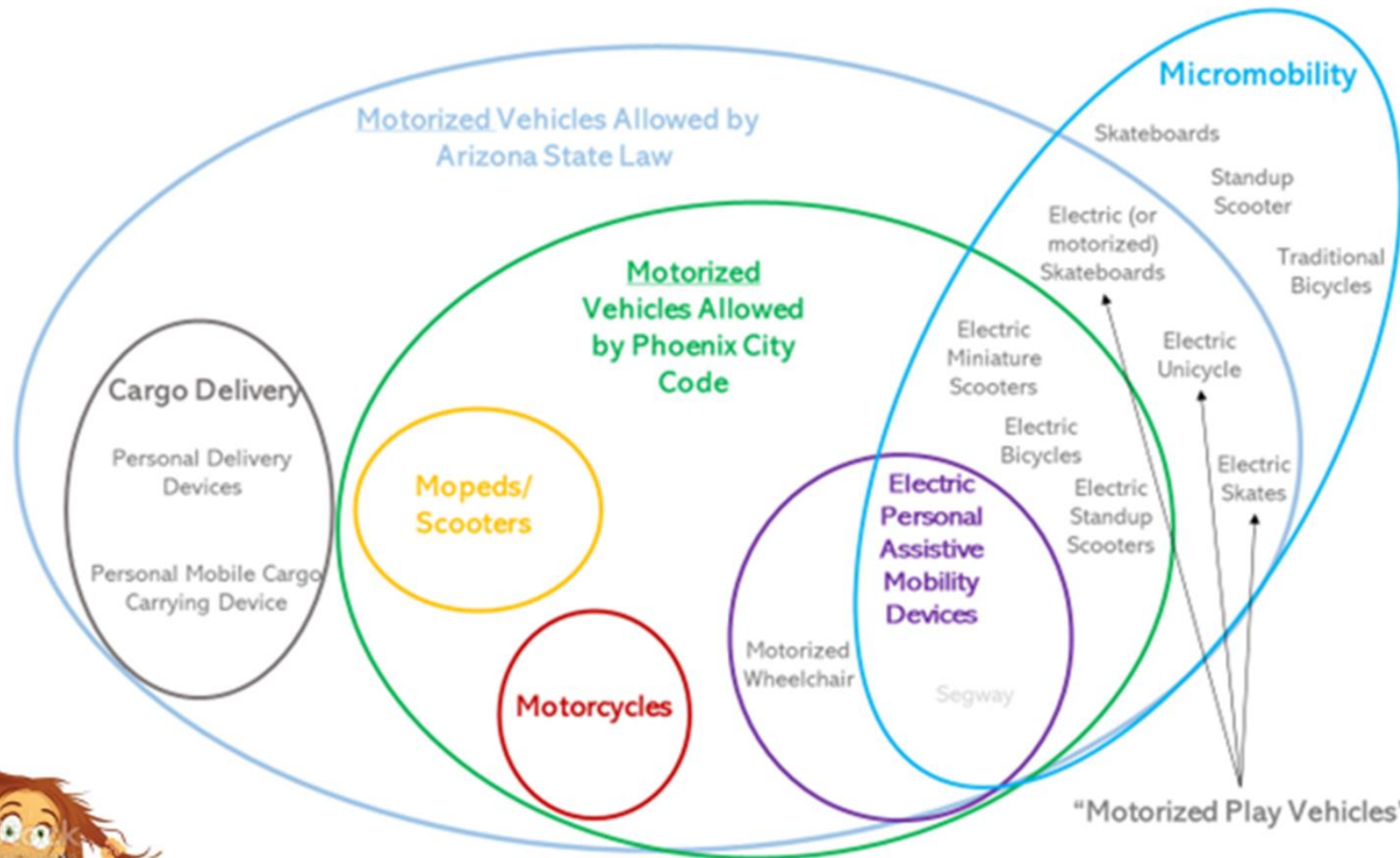


# Other Questions/Issues to Consider

- Once regulations are figured out - can they be enforced? If so, by who?
- SPEED of travel seems to be a major concern - how to address
- Potential for use conflict --- or accidents - any documentation?
- Impact on the natural resource - real or perceived? (further research)
- Will eMTB increase the overall use on trails?
- Will eMTB's "open the door" to other electric motor devices (recreational Micromobility vs. OPDMD)
- Trail design changes?



# Natural Resource Managers vs. Transportation



# Good Reference Resources

[eMTB Education | IMBA](#)

[Electric Bikes | PeopleForBikes](#)

[eMTB Resources | Trails Are Common Ground](#)

[Electric Bicycle FAQs | Archer's Bikes | Arizona - Archer's Bikes | Mesa, Gilbert, Tempe, Prescott, AZ \(archersbikes.com\)](#)

[Electronic Bicycle Use | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](#)



**These are just a few quick ones...a Google search will provide MANY more!**



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**Questions? Thank you!**

