

Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area Road and Trail Management Plan

Community Feedback Survey and Responses



Prepared for
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1 INTRODUCTION

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) and the consultant, Ascent, conducted a Community Feedback Survey to gather information on how the facilities, trails, and other uses of the Prairie City SVRA are currently being used and potentially improved in the future. The results of the survey will be used to inform preparation of the Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP). The following document contains the following:

- **Survey Design** – Description of the survey instrument used to gather responses.
- **Key Findings** – Overall key themes and takeaways from the collected responses.
- **Public Outreach** – A description of associated outreach used to advertise and capture survey responses.
- **Survey Responses** – Responses of each survey question summarized in graph or bullet format.

2 SURVEY DESIGN

The Community Feedback Survey was conducted as part of the community outreach effort for the Prairie City SVRA RTMP. The survey was developed to address key issues in the RTMP using question from the Trail Experience Survey conducted in 2018 as a starting point. The 2018 Trail Experience Survey received 77 responses and asked questions pertaining to trail features that were desired and use types in each of the zones. The 2023 Community Feedback Survey expanded on these questions to gain a better understanding on other uses that may be desired by users and community members, addressed specific concerns in each of the zones, and additional features/uses that may be added.

3 KEY FINDINGS

The following key findings were gathered from both the results of the multiple-choice questions and open-ended answers received:

- **40% of respondents live within 10-30 miles** of Prairie City SVRA and a similar amount (37%) live further than 30 miles from the park.
- Prairie City SVRA is utilized year-round, with **most activity (77%) occurring in the months of April-June**.
- A majority of respondents expressed a desire (67%) to include **mountain bikes and E-bikes** in areas where motorized uses are not allowed and adding **overnight camping** (60%).
- 59% of respondents that visit Prairie City SVRA are **2-4 people in size**.
- The **Main Staging Area is used the most** (76%) by respondents for access and staging.
- Over **70% of respondents use motorcycles** (dirt bikes/dual sport) when visiting Prairie City SVRA.
- The motorized trail uses most desired by respondents are **motorcycle only trails** (62%).
- The top issues that make trail users' experience less enjoyable include **conflicts between different OHV uses and safety**.
- Key themes that emerged from the open-ended answers include:
 - a desire to include overnight camping and mountain biking as new uses,

- create a dedicated area for side-by-sides/ROV (Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle) for improved safety,
- concerns related to the impact of new home development near the northern portion of the park,
- a desire to expand in areas that benefit all user groups, and
- respondents value that Prairie City SVRA is within close proximity to their homes and that varied uses are allowed/offered.

4 PUBLIC OUTREACH

The following strategies were used in advertising the Community Feedback Survey to encourage a wide range of participation from those that use the park frequently to those that may use it if other uses were available.

4.1 PROJECT WEBPAGE

The project website (parks.ca.gov/PrairieCityRTMP) is maintained to provide information on the planning process, identify opportunities to participate, provide links to the existing park use map and the opportunities and constraints maps online survey and app, allow visitors to sign up for email updates, and provide an agency email address to contact with comments or questions.

4.2 PROJECT CONTACT LIST

Emails were sent to the project contact list that announced opportunities to participate in the survey and other engagement activities. The project contact list included non-profit organizations, private stakeholders, neighboring property owners, and various user groups.

4.3 SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media posts were used across the Prairie City SVRA Instagram and Facebook accounts, encouraging those to participate in the Community Feedback Survey, visiting the project website and attending public workshop #1 for more information.

4.4 PUBLIC WORKSHOP #1

Participation was encouraged at the public workshop held at the Prairie City SVRA Environmental Training Center (ETC) on August 9, 2023. This included an existing park use map and the opportunities and constraints maps for each zone along with QR codes and physical copies of the survey for participants to take while attending the workshop.

4.5 POP-UP EVENTS

Three pop-up events were conducted prior to the closing of the Community Feedback Survey. These events included visitor engagement at the interpretive booth at the popular Hangtown Motocross Classic on June 3, 2023, the El Dorado Hills Farmers Market held on July 30, 2023 and at, Cal 4Wheel's Sierra Trek, a family 4x4 event in Tahoe NF on August 11 and 12, 2023 where postcards were handed out that directed visitors to the project website to take the survey.

4.6 SIGNAGE/HANDOUTS

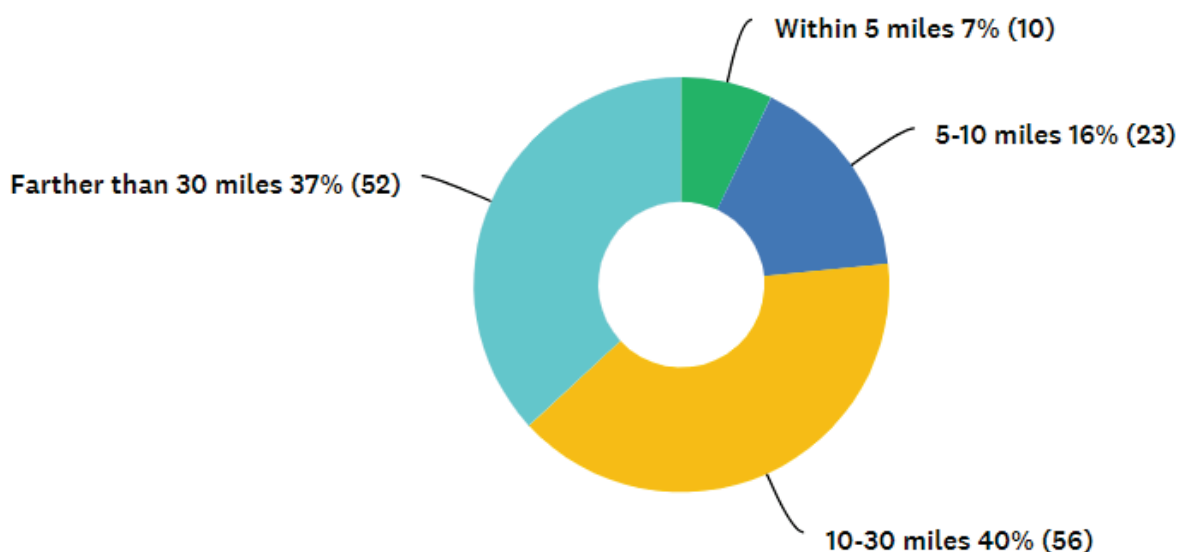
Signs and flyers were posted at the park entrance and throughout main thoroughfares and restroom areas of the park announcing the Community Feedback Survey and encouraging participation using a QR code to connect participants to the project website. Postcards containing the QR code and project website were also distributed at the main park entrance kiosk and handed out to visitors by park staff.

5 SURVEY RESPONSES

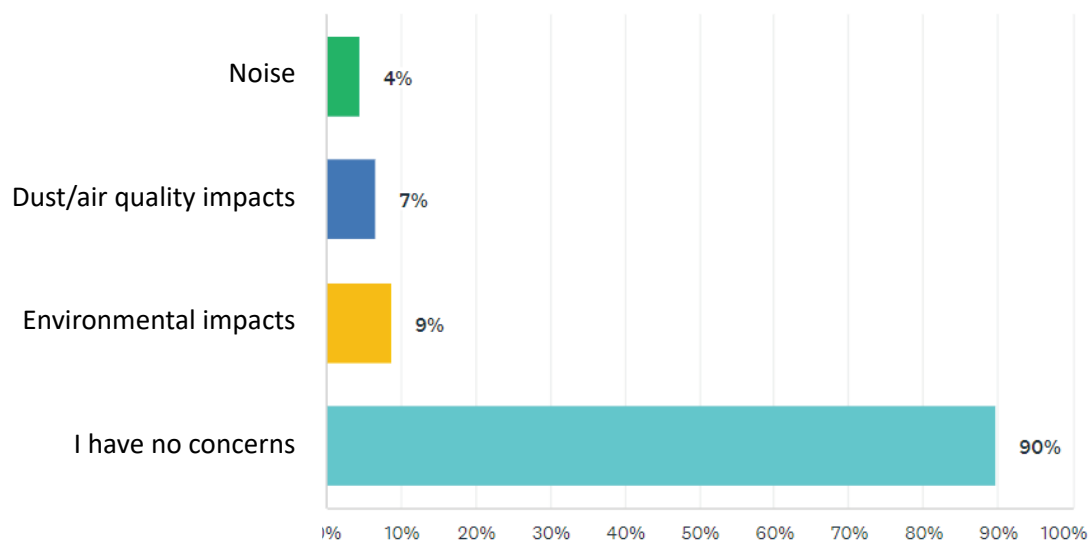
The Community Feedback survey was made available digitally on the project website (parks.ca.gov/PrairieCityRTMP) from June 1, 2023 – August 15, 2023. A total of **141 responses** were received and will help inform the content of future outreach efforts and guide the development of the Road and Trail Management Plan.

5.1 SECTION 1: GENERAL QUESTIONS

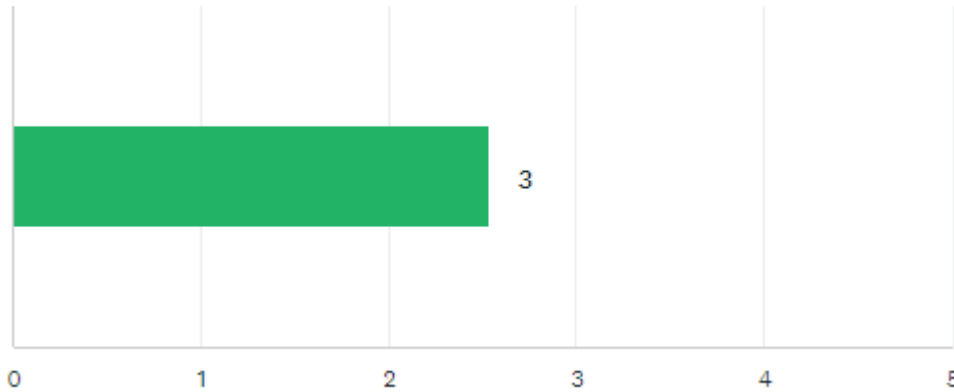
1. How close to Prairie City SVRA do you live?



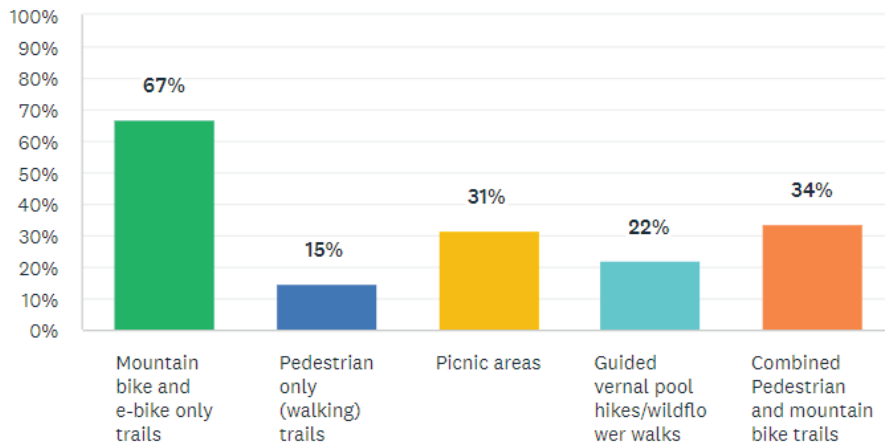
2. Do you have any of the following concerns about the impact Prairie City SVRA has on the surrounding area? (Select all that apply)



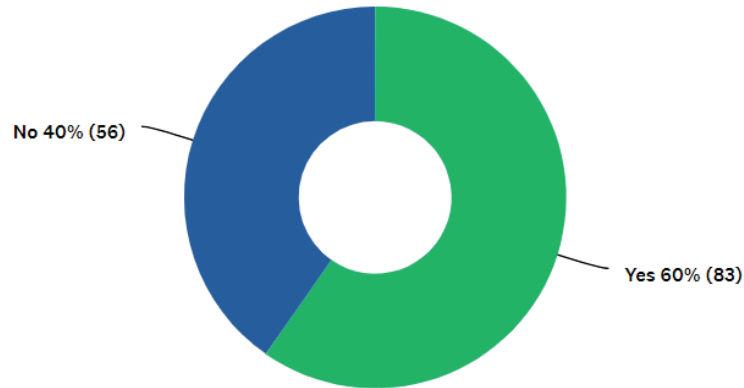
3. What level of interest do you have in non-motorized trail opportunities in areas not open to OHV use? (0 = no interest, 5 = very interested)?



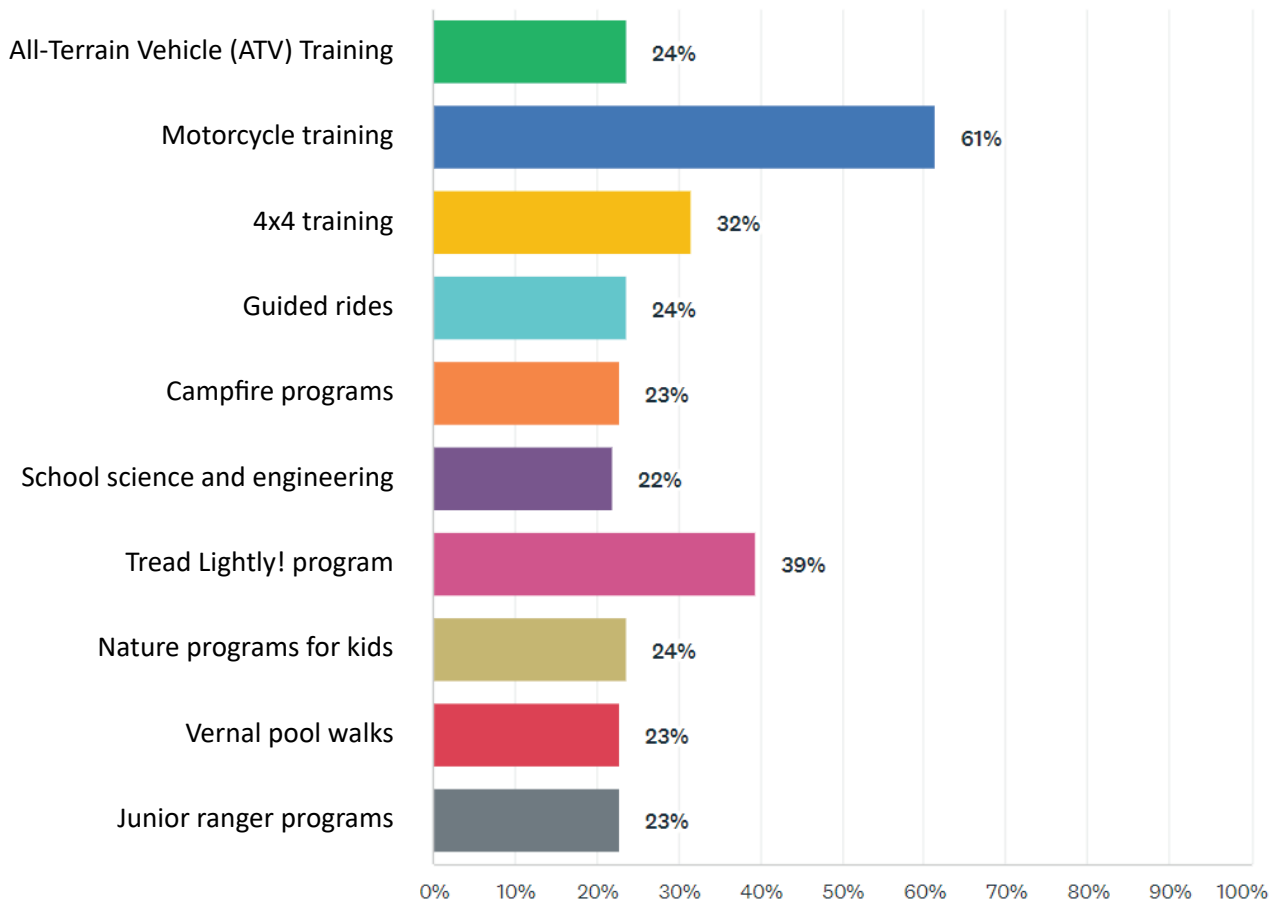
4. If the SVRA were to offer non-motorized vehicle options in areas not currently open to OHV use, which of the following would you like to see? (Select all that apply)



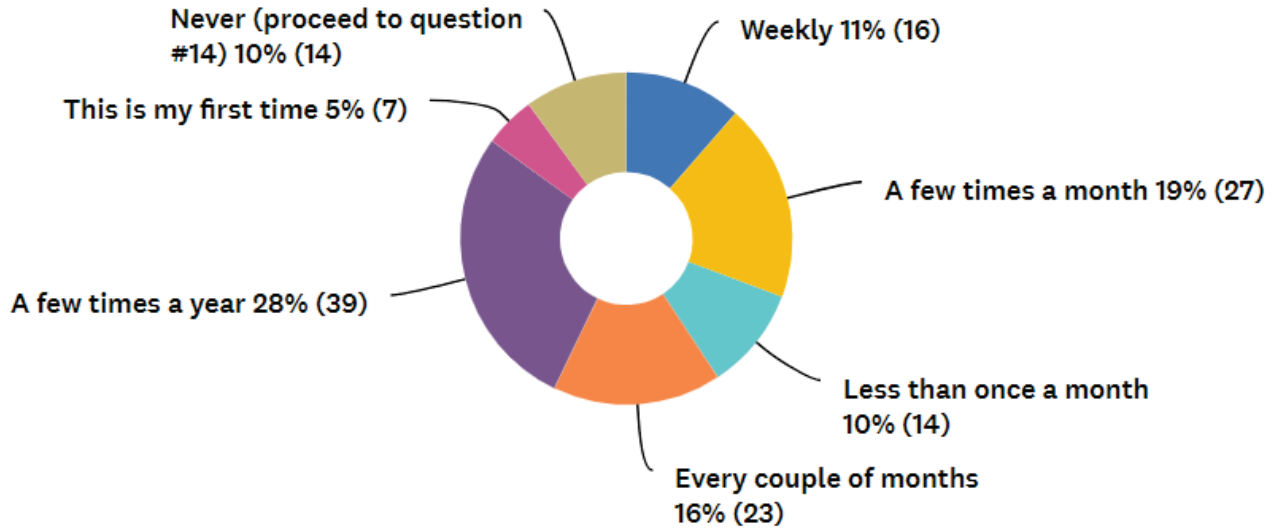
5. Would you use overnight camping if it was available?



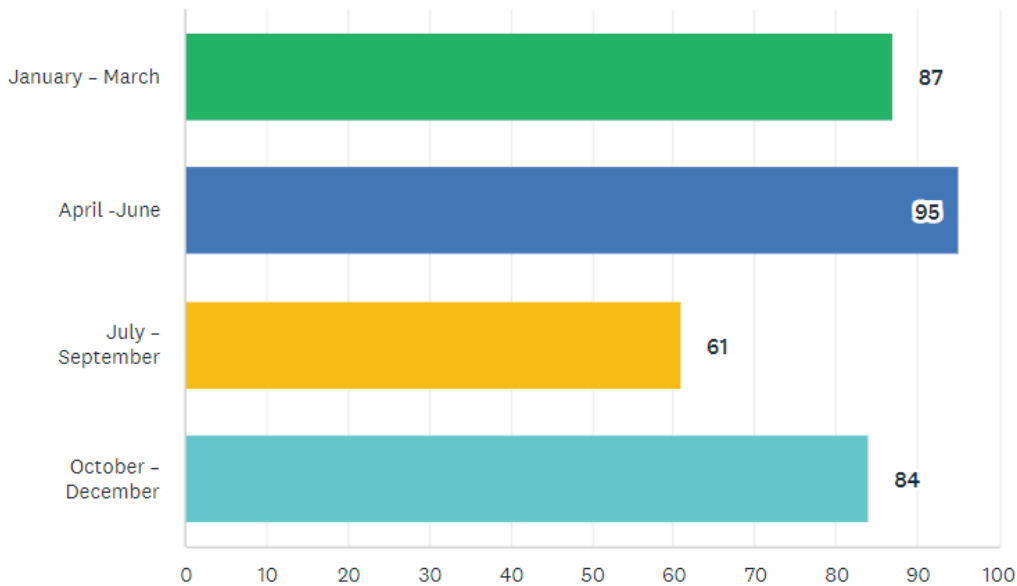
6. What programs would interest you? (Select all that apply)



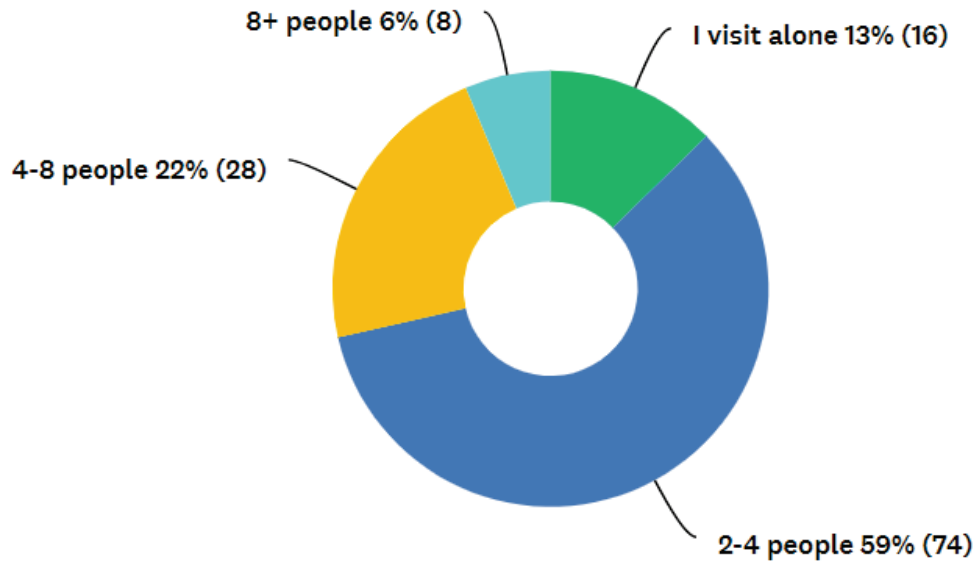
7. How often do you recreate at Prairie City SVRA?



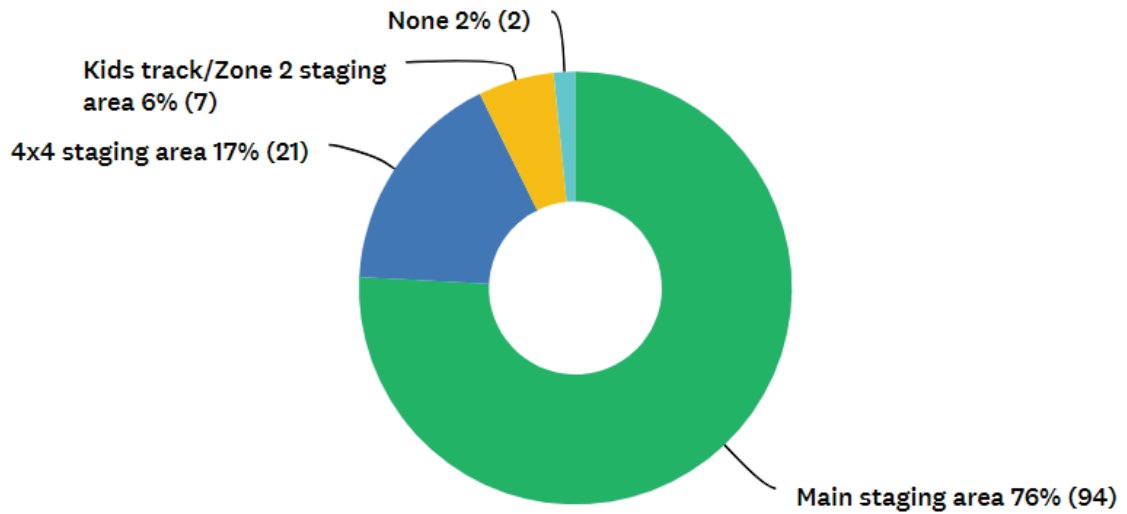
8. What months do you frequent Prairie City SVRA? (Select all that apply)



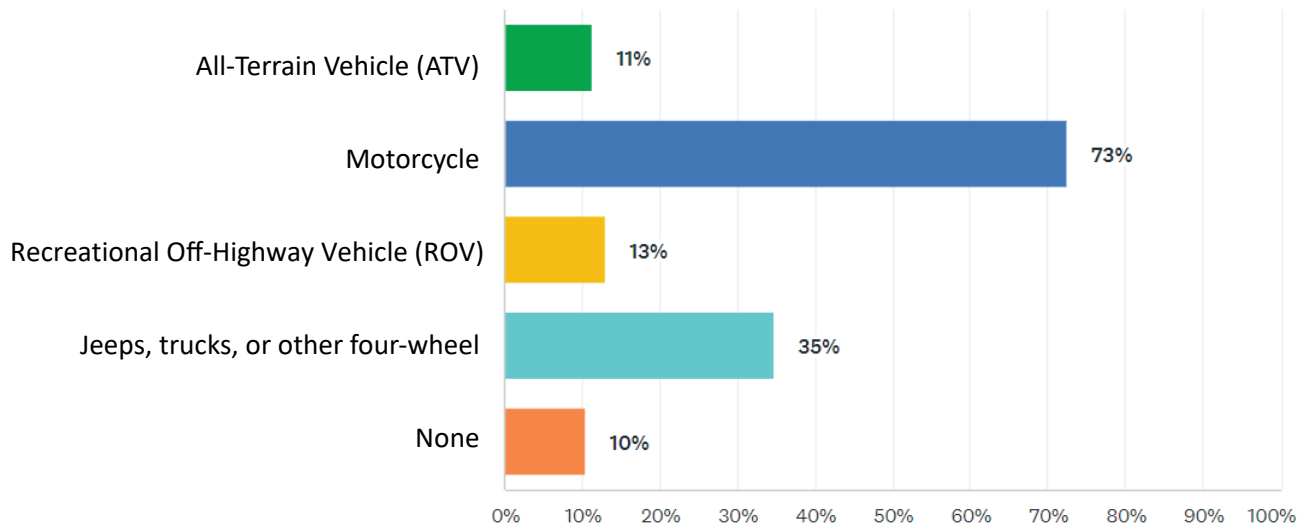
9. How large is your group on a typical visit?



10. What staging areas or access points do you typically use?



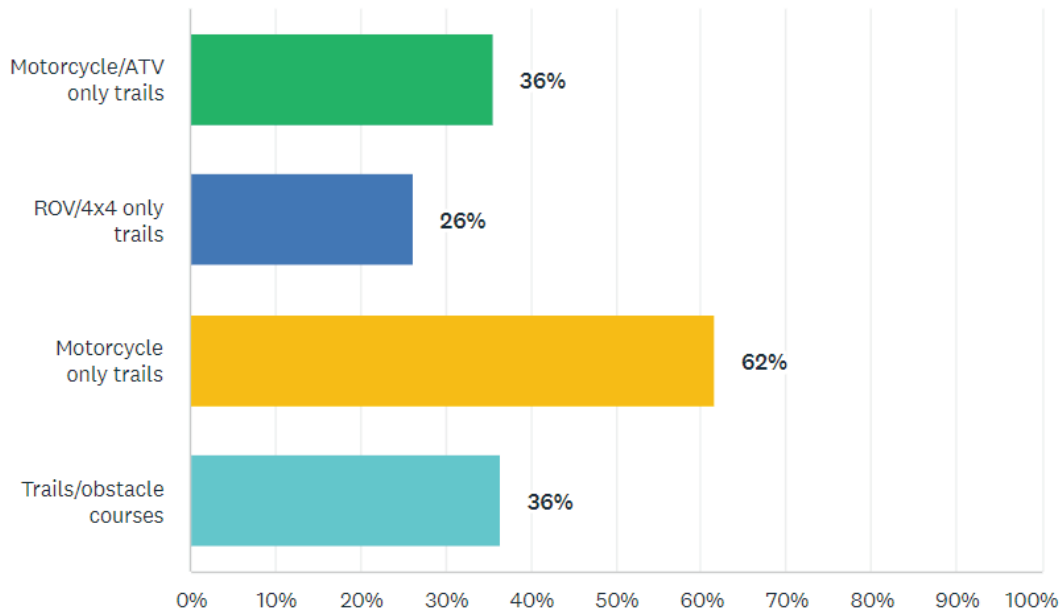
11. What motorized vehicles do you currently use to recreate? (Select all that apply)



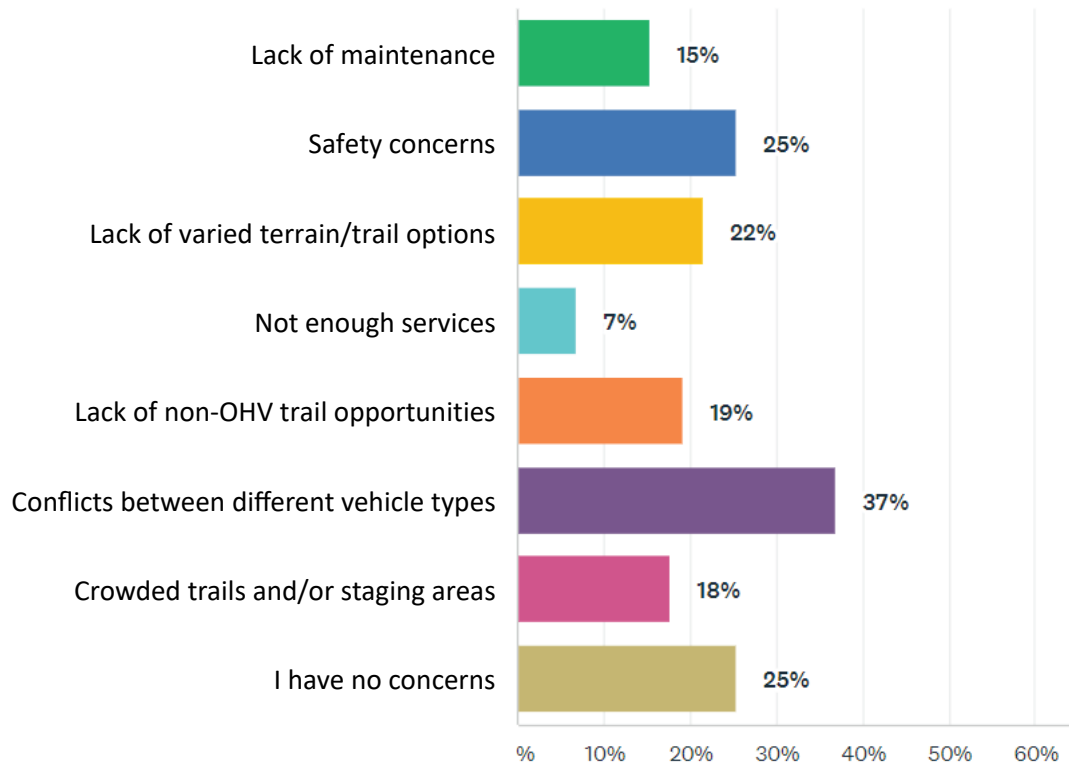
12. What do you value most about the trails/riding opportunities in Prairie City SVRA?

- The 4x4 Riding Area.
- Close to home and work.
- Access!
- MTN Bike Races!
- Clean restrooms, trails and staging areas.
- The trails offered and open area riding.
- Safe and clean
- A place to practice and develop skills.

13. What kind of motorized trail opportunities would you like more of at Prairie City SVRA? (Select all that apply)



14. Do you have any issues or concerns that make your trail use less enjoyable and/or keep you from using the trails? (Select all that apply)



15. Are there any other thoughts you would like to share about Prairie City SVRA?

New trails designed for 4x4 recreation.

Great to have a big mile MTB trail or a long 4x4 trail utilizing the whole property.

Glad to hear the plan will finally be implemented.

Side by Sides need a dedicated area.

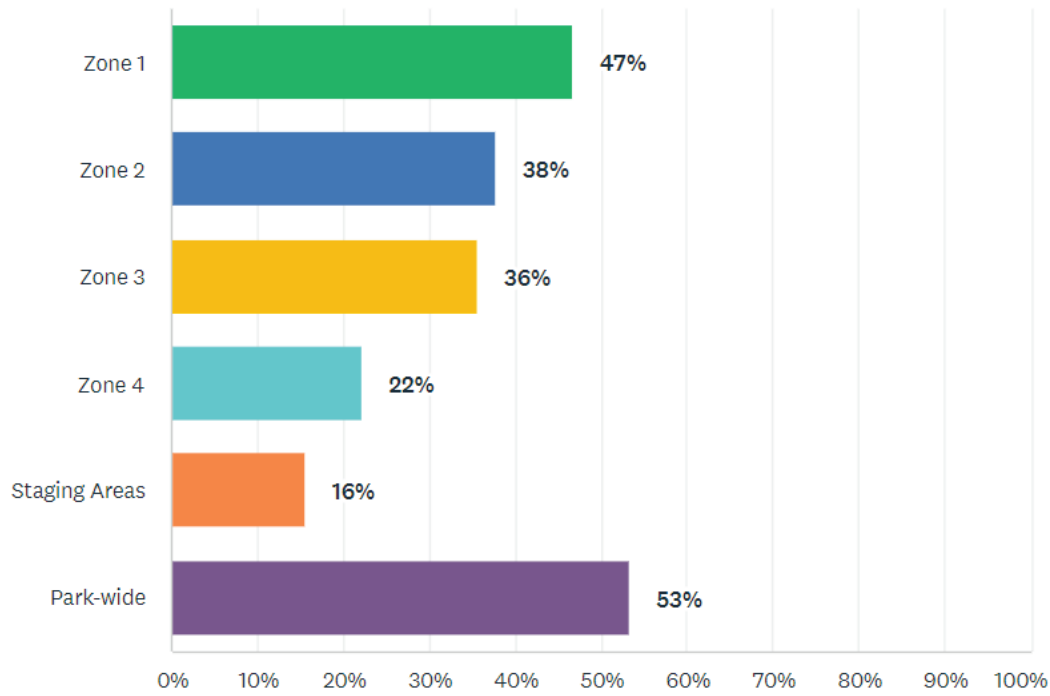
MX Practice Track needs to be expanded and regularly maintained.

Expand it!

Nice to add overnight camping!

More trails open to mountain bike is always a good.

16. If you have any concerns, please select the locations you have these concerns? *(Select all that apply)*

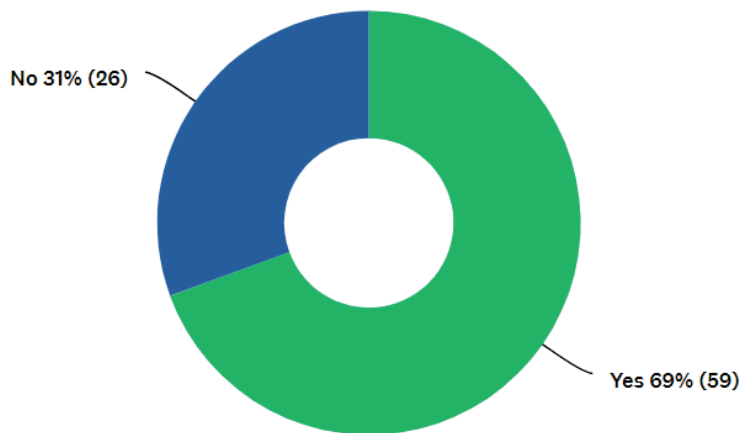


5.2 SECTION 2: SPECIFIC AREA QUESTIONS

Areas currently open to public recreation (Zones 1-4):

Zone 1

17. Would you like to see camping available in this area?

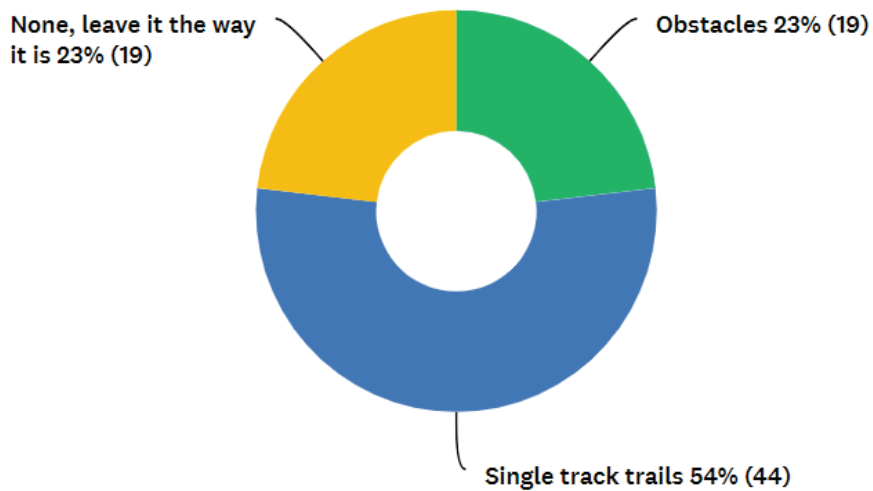


Zone 2

18. Zone 2 is designated as a route and trail riding use area and currently allows the following use types: ROV (Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle),ATV (All-Terrain Vehicle), motorcycle, and trials bike. Would you like to see use types in this area stay as is or should the allowed vehicle types be changed?

- **Added Uses:**
 - 4x4's (25%)
 - Jeeps/trucks (7%)
 - Dirt bike trails (7%)
 - Mountain Biking (40%)
 - Hiking (7%)
 - Non ROV (7%)
 - MX Practice Track (7%)
- **Remove Uses:**
 - Utility Task Vehicle (10%)
 - ROV (66%)
 - ATV (14%)
 - Side by Sides(10%)

19. What features would you like to see more of in Zone 2?

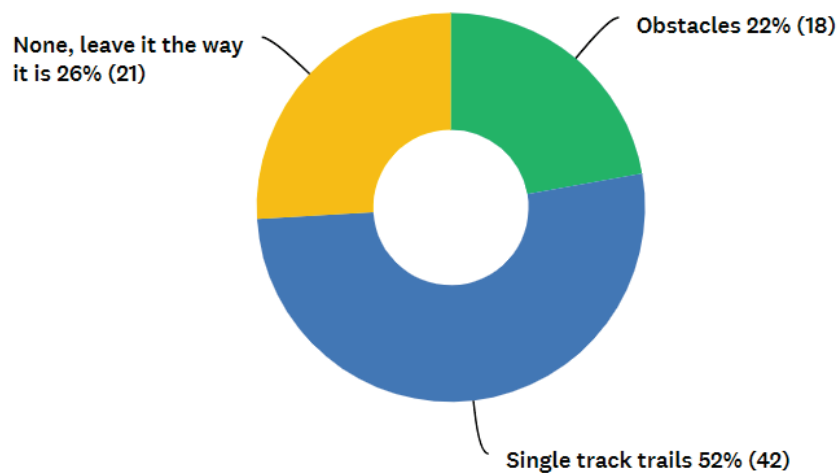


Zone 3

20. Zone 3 is designated as a route and trail riding use area and currently allows the following use types: ROV (Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle), ATV (All-Terrain Vehicle), motorcycle, and trials bike. Would you like to see use types in this area stay as is or should the allowed vehicle types be changed?

- **Added Uses:**
 - Mountain Biking (70%)
 - 4x4 jeeps/trucks (30%)
- **Remove Uses:**
 - Utility Task Vehicle (12%)
 - ROV (68%)
 - Side by Sides (12%)
 - ATV (24%)

21. What features would you like to see more of in Zone 3?

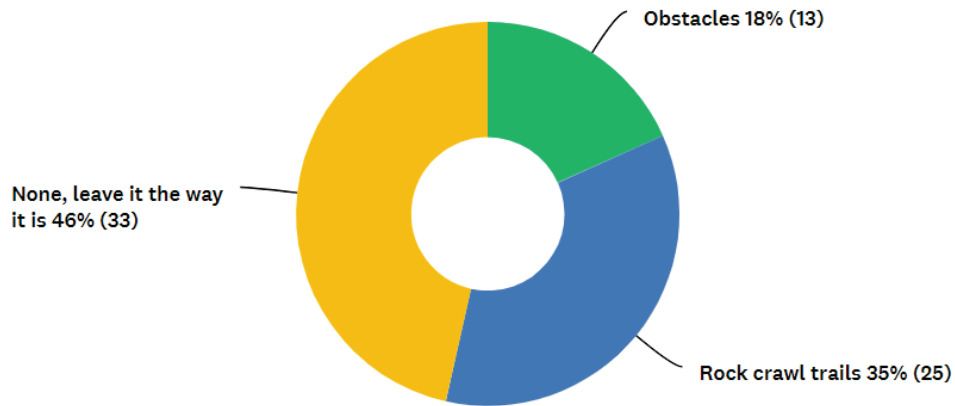


Zone 4

22. Zone 4 is designated as a route and trail riding use area and currently allows the following use types: ROV (Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle), 4x4, and Trials Bike. Would you like to see these use types in this area stay as is or should the allowed uses be changed?

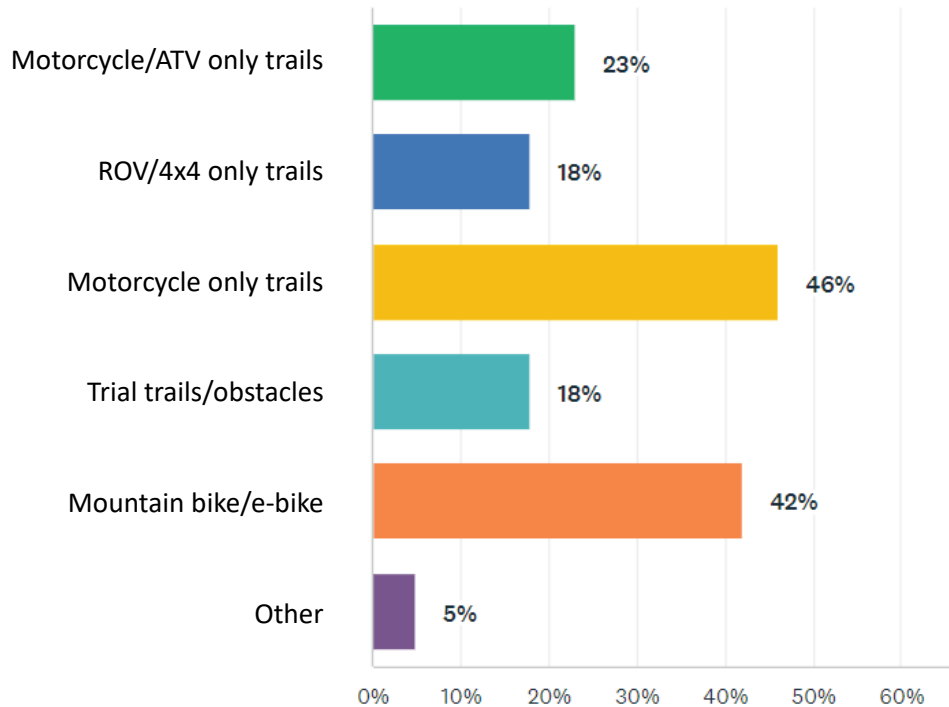
- **Added Uses:**
 - Mountain Biking (44%)
 - Motorcycles (35%)
 - ATV (7%)
 - Single Track (7%)
 - Special Events (7%)
- **Remove Uses:**
 - Utility Task Vehicle (16%)
 - ROV (52%)
 - Side by Sides (16%)
 - Two wheeled vehicles (16%)

23. What features would you like to see more of in Zone 4?

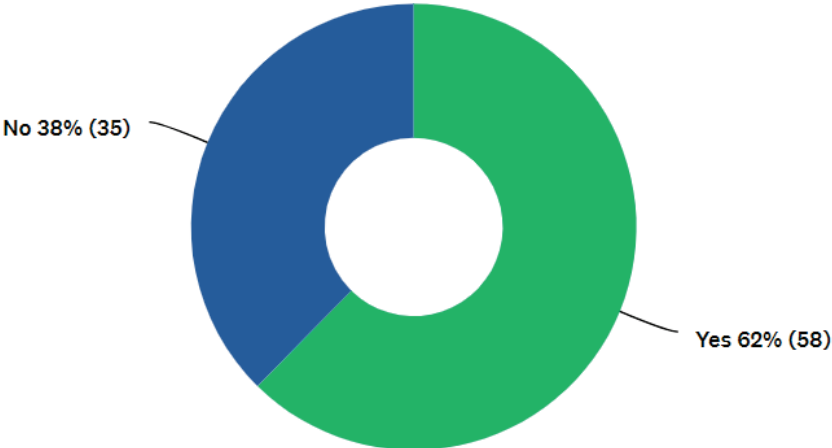


Areas currently not open to public recreation but could include OHV use (Yost and Ehnisz):

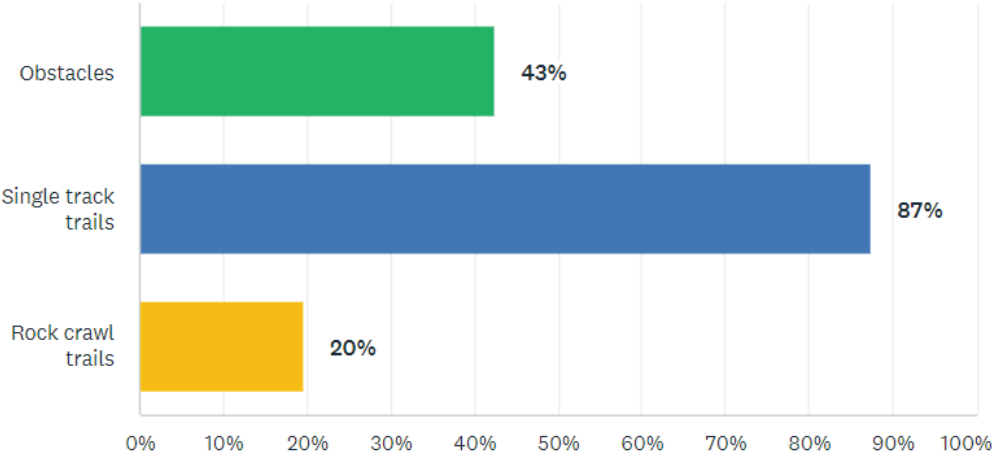
24. What kind of recreational opportunities would interest you in these areas?



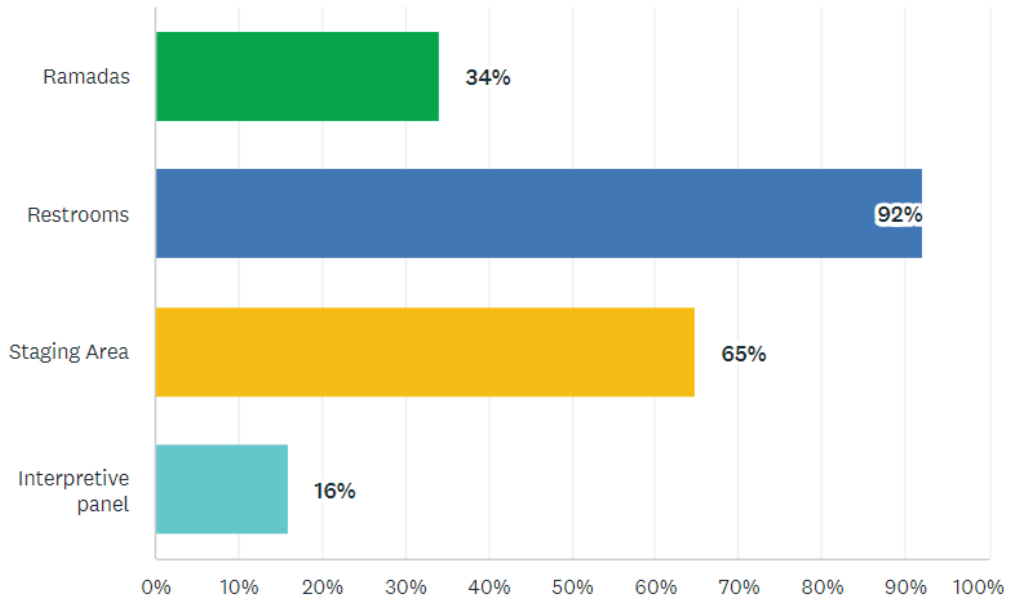
25. Would you like to see camping available in the Ehnisz property?



26. What trail features would be appealing in these areas?

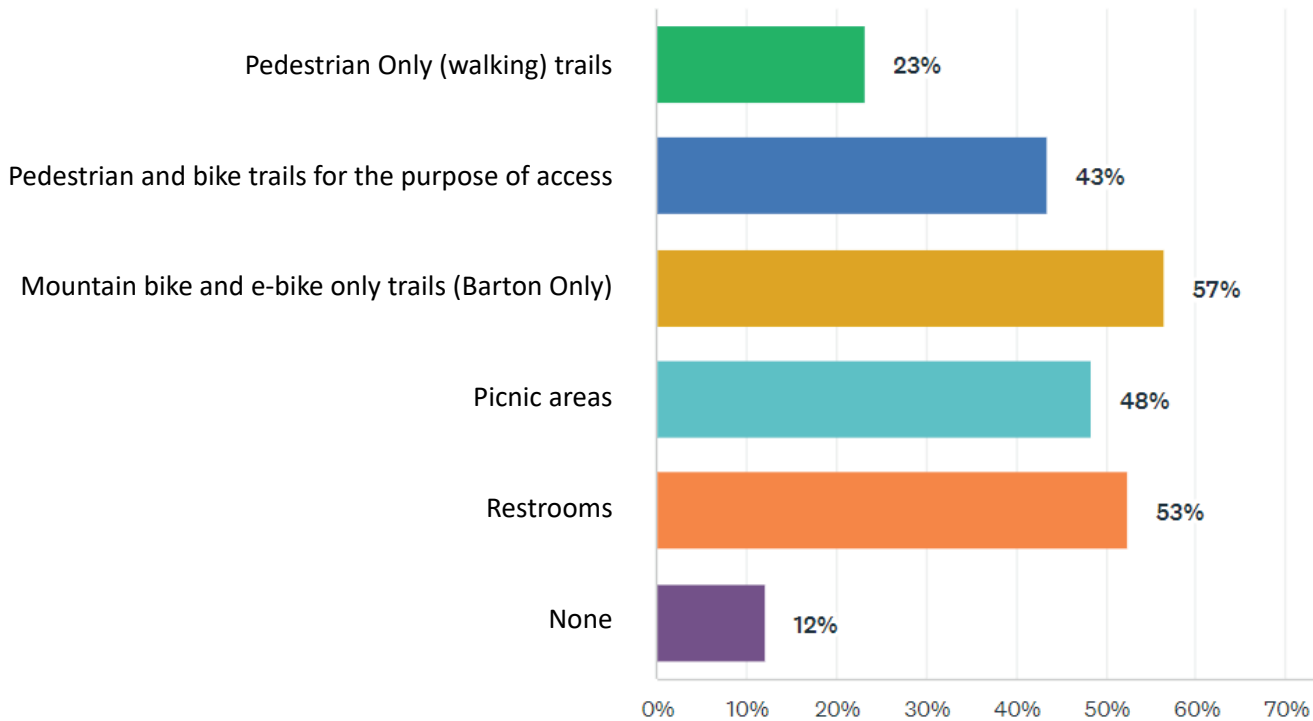


27. What facilities would you like to see in these areas?



Areas currently not open to public recreation and cannot consider future OHV use (*Barton and Vernal Pool Management Area*):

28. What types of non-motorized recreation would you like to see here?



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