



ARIZONA

STATE PARKS & TRAILS

ARIZONA TRAILS 2020



PIMA COUNTY REPORT



Arizona Trails Plan 2020

Pima County Report

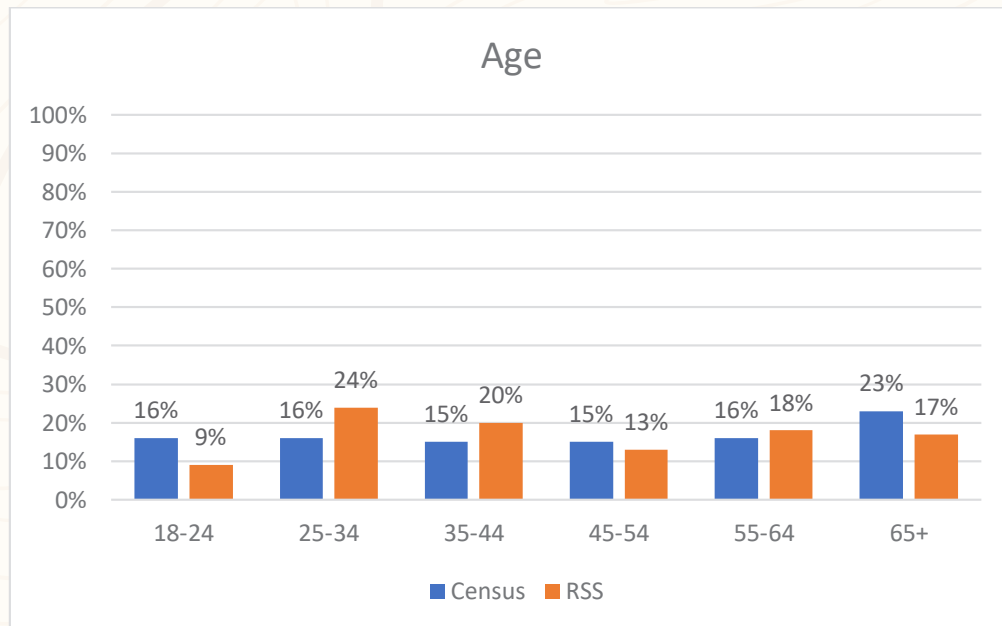


Introduction:

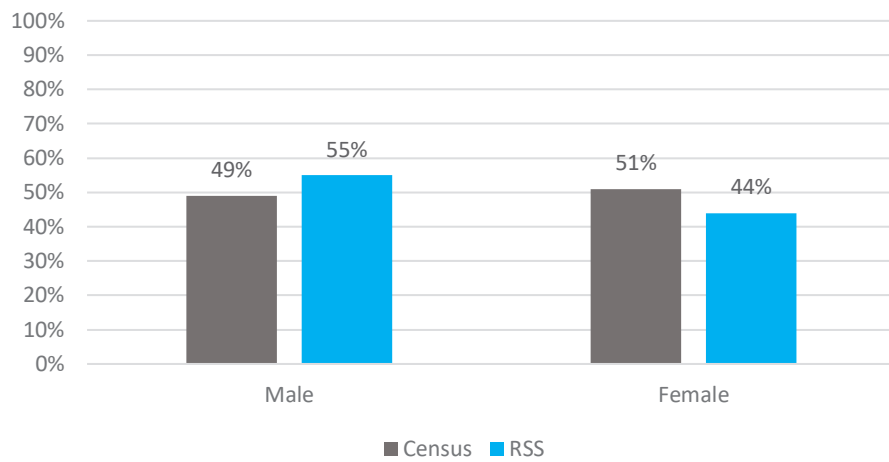
Arizona State Parks and Trails, in partnership with Partners in Brainstorm, conducted a statewide random sample survey (RSS) that is representative of the Arizona population at the state and county or regional levels. This survey informs the Arizona Trails 2020 Plan, which is completed every five years per statute [A.R.S. § 41-511.22 and A.R.S. § 41-511.04 [20]]. This is an opportunity to understand the use, concerns and priorities of Arizona's motorized and non-motorized trail users. These data, in conjunction with two other surveys and qualitative material formed the basis of the Plan, which provides analyses at the state level. This supplementary document contains analyses at the county or regional level for Pima County. The following information may be used to inform recreation planning efforts, recreation initiatives and requests for additional funding to support trail opportunities and infrastructure renewal.

Demographics:

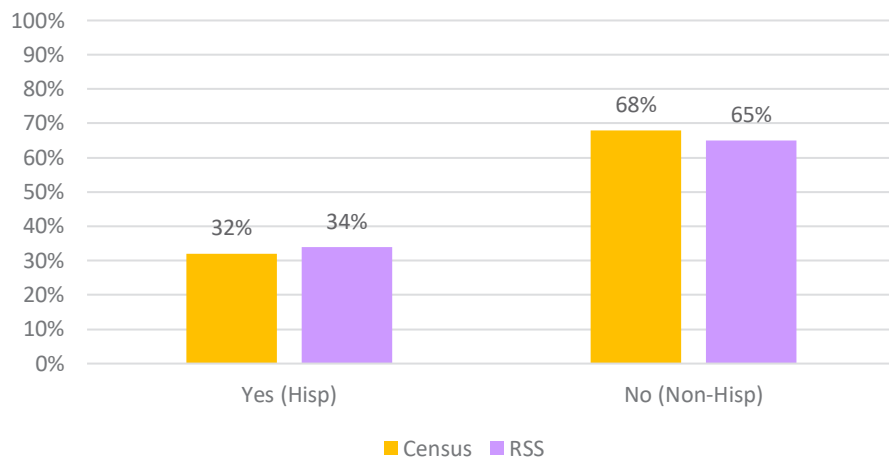
The figures below illustrate a comparison of the 2018 Pima County Census data estimates with the demographic profile of 845 Pima County RSS respondents (including motorized, non-motorized and non-users). Data were weighted on two demographic variables: gender and Hispanic origin to better represent the proportion of these groups relative to state and county populations.



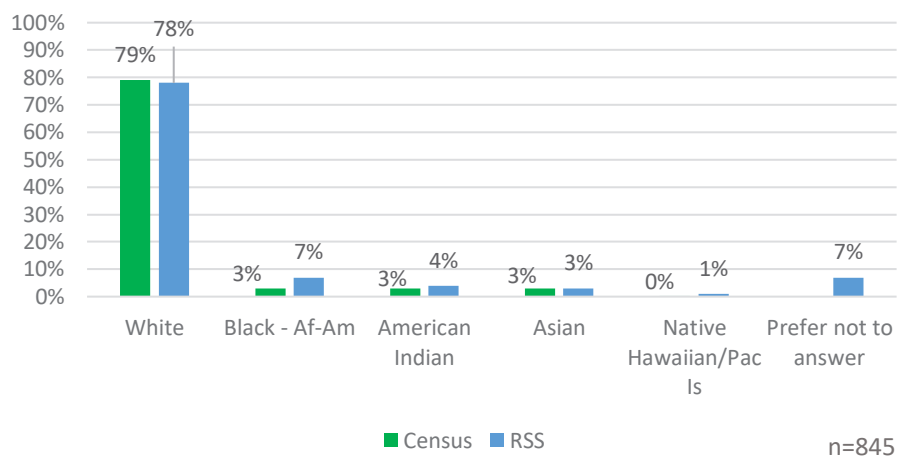
Gender



Hispanic or Latino Origin

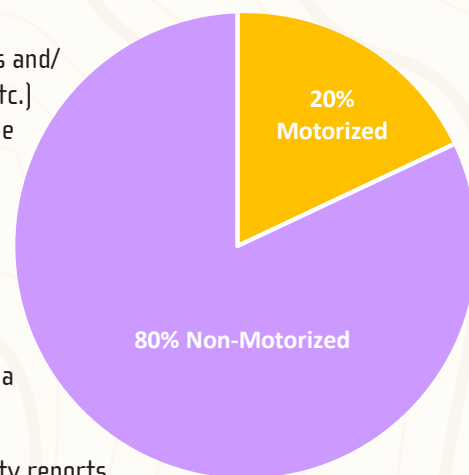


Race



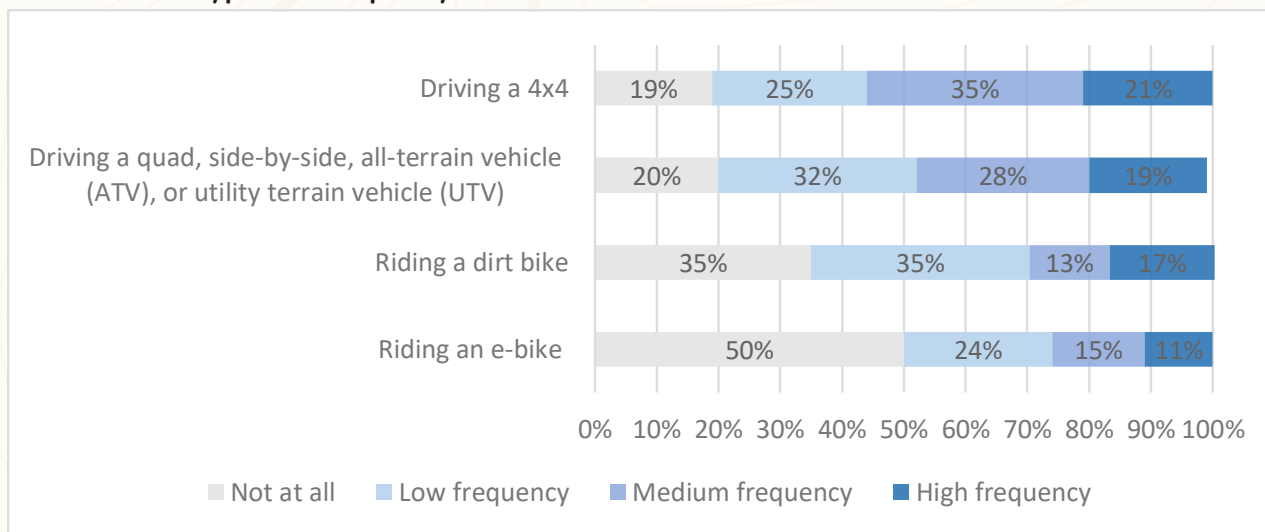
Pima County User Profile:

The figures in this report are separated by motorized (such as driving ATVs, 4x4s, dirt bikes and/or e-bikes) and non-motorized (such as hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, kayakers, etc.) trail users. Data below has been rounded to the nearest percentile. For the figures in the rest of the report, data are shown as all trail users (motorized and non-motorized users combined) or all users of a specific type (all motorized users or all non-motorized users). In the R55 for Pima County, more than three in five residents (63%) reported participating in either motorized or non-motorized trail activities within the last 12 months. Of these survey respondents, one in five (20%) engaged in motorized activities, while 80% of survey respondents participated in non-motorized trail activities. Survey respondents categorized as non-users either had never used trails for motorized or non-motorized activities in Arizona (18%) or had not used trails within the last 12 months (18%).



Please note that comparisons to the state Arizona Trails 2020 Plan must consider that county reports include all users (any respondent who spent any time within the last 12 months on motorized or non-motorized trail activities), whereas the state trails plan focuses on “core” users. “Core” respondents reported their trail use was primarily motorized or non-motorized (defined as half or more of their time spent on trails is spent on motorized/non-motorized types of activities). This strategy could not be employed in county or regional reports due to smaller cell sizes.

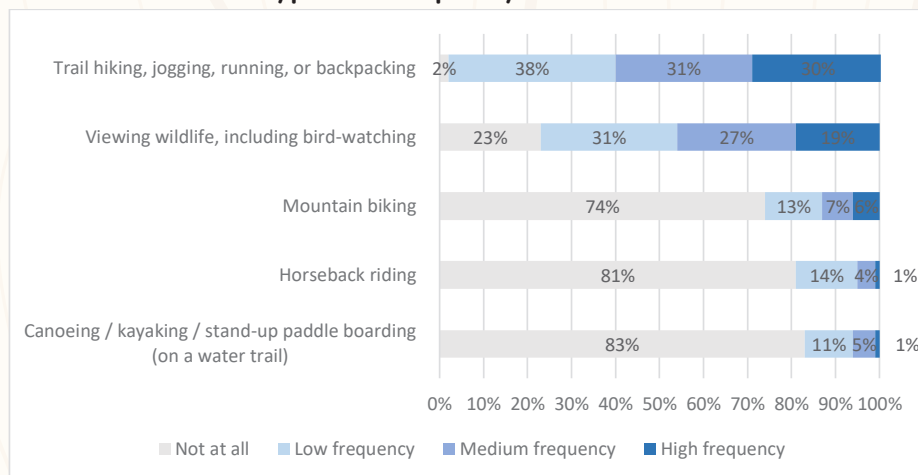
Motorized Use Type and Frequency



“During the past 12 months, how often have you used trails on public or private lands in Arizona for the following types of motorized recreational activities?”



Non-Motorized Use Type and Frequency



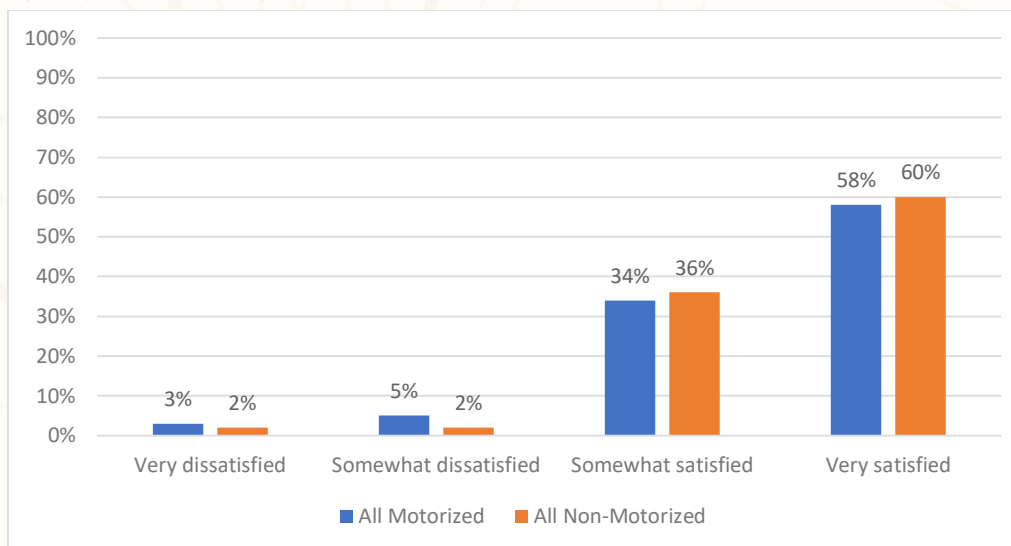
"During the past 12 months, how often have you used trails on public or private lands in Arizona for the following types of non-motorized recreational activities?"

The figures above are Pima County's motorized and non-motorized trail use within the last 12 months by type and frequency of activities. High frequency contains the responses: "More often than once a week," "Once a week" and "Every few weeks." Medium frequency contains the responses: "Once a month" and "Every couple of months" and low frequency contains the responses "A few times" and "Once." The "Not at all" category depicts the percent of respondents who reported that they had not participated in a particular activity within the last 12 months.

As seen in the figures above, driving a 4x4 was the most popular motorized activity with 81% of motorized users participating in this category, followed closely by driving a quad, UTV, ATV or side by side (80%) at least once a year. Riding an e-bike was the least cited use type in the motorized category, but 50% of motorized users still used an e-bike at least once in the last year. This type of recreation is growing, so this number may increase in the coming years. In addition, definitions of e-bike use as motorized or non-motorized and permissions to use e-bikes on trails will likely continue to be a hot topic for land managing agencies and users.

Hiking, jogging, backpacking and running are by far the most popular non-motorized activities with only 2% of non-motorized users not participating in one of these activities during the last 12 months. Viewing wildlife is another popular non-motorized activity with 77% of users participating in this activity at least once a year. Approximately 19% of non-motorized users engaged in equestrian activities on trails and 17% participate in non-motorized activities on water trails.

Satisfaction with Trails in Arizona

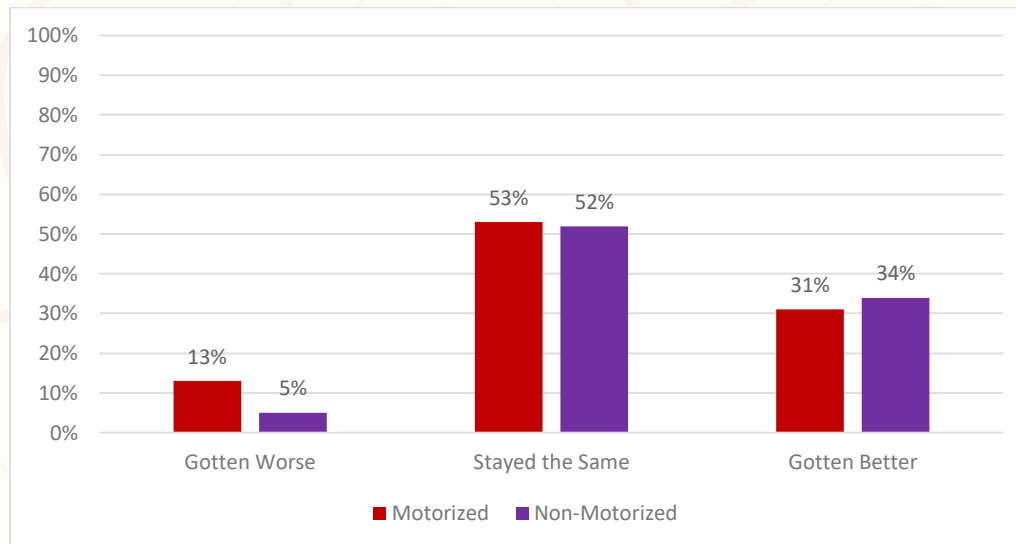


"Overall, how satisfied are you with (motorized/non-motorized) trails in Arizona?"



The figure on the previous page depicts Pima County's motorized and non-motorized trail users' satisfaction with the trails they use statewide. Nearly all users of both types are either somewhat satisfied or very satisfied (92% of motorized and 96% of non-motorized).

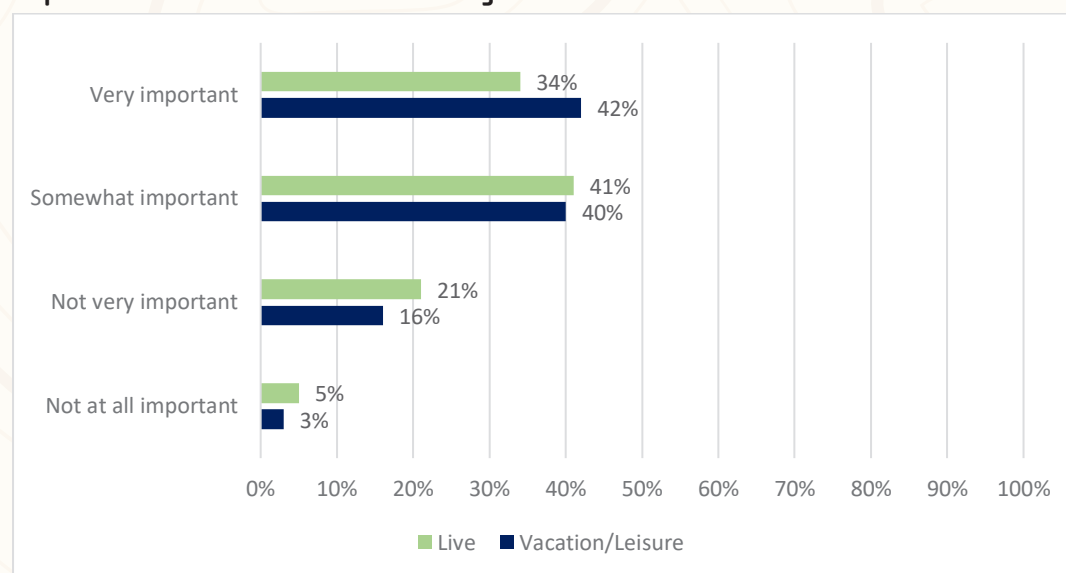
Access to Motorized and Non-Motorized Recreation



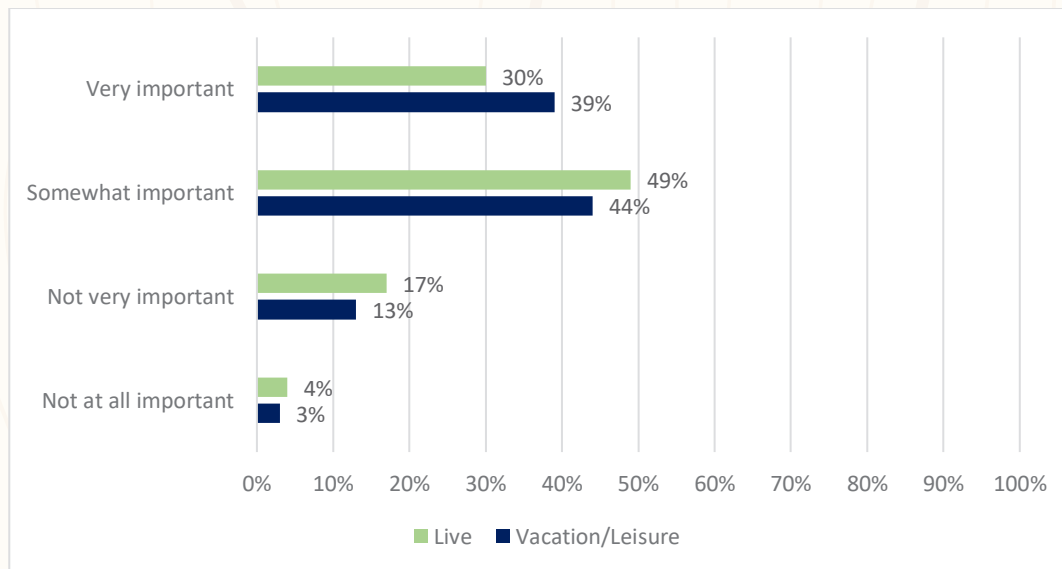
"In the past 5 years, has access to (non-motorized/motorized) recreation gotten better, stayed the same, or gotten worse?"

Each trail user surveyed was asked if they thought access to the trail type that they use has declined, stayed the same or improved. Access refers to trails in the entire state that the respondent uses, not just trails in Pima County. As seen above, 8% more motorized users perceive declining access to trails than non-motorized users, but approximately one-third (31% motorized and 34% non-motorized) of each group thought that access has improved and more than one-half noted that access had stayed the same. It is important to note that 8% of the non-motorized R55 survey respondents and 4% of motorized respondents were unable to answer the question above as they had not been living in Arizona for 5 years or longer.

Importance of Trails in Leisure/Living Destinations - Motorized



Importance of Trails in Leisure/Living Destinations - Non-Motorized



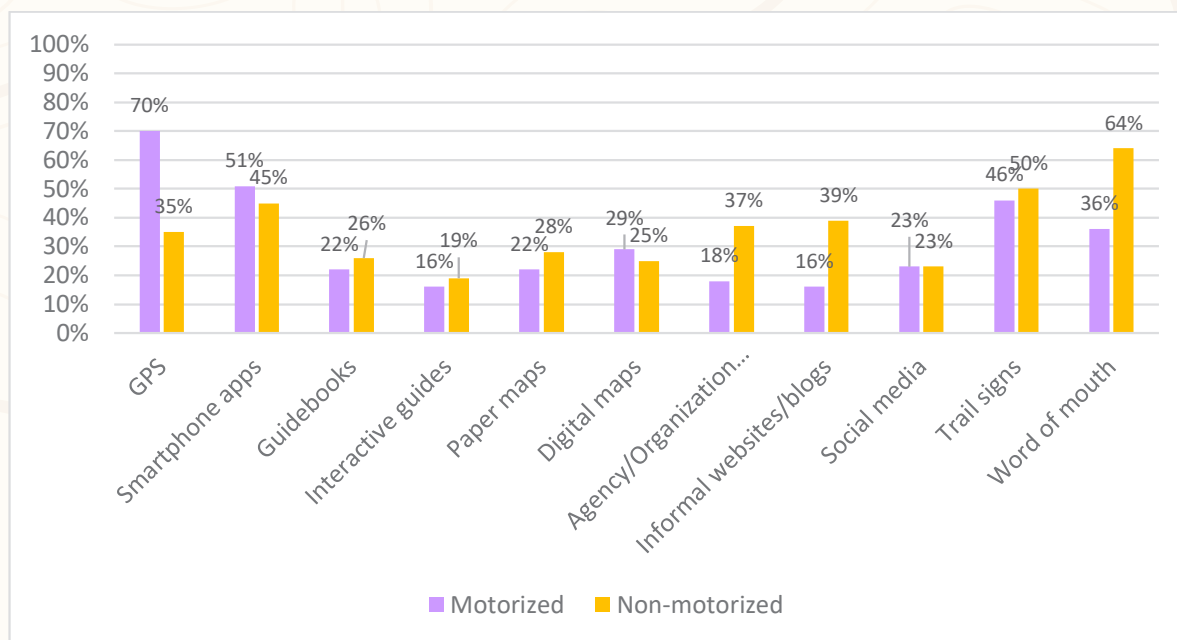
Navy Blue: "How important is it to have trails nearby when deciding where to live in AZ?"

Green: "How important is it to have trails nearby when choosing a destination for vacation or leisure travel in AZ?"

The figures above depict all of Pima County's users' (both motorized and non-motorized) views on the importance of trails when deciding on a place to live or travel to for leisure in Arizona. The data shows that trails are a somewhat or very important factor in deciding on where to live for both motorized (75%) and non-motorized (79%) users and even more find trails somewhat or very important in making travel or leisure decisions (82% and 83% respectively). This means that a large majority of trail users use trail availability as a factor when making these types of decisions, with a slightly higher importance on vacation/leisure destinations having trails.

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How Trail Users Find Trails



"Which of the following tools do you use to find and use trails in Arizona?"

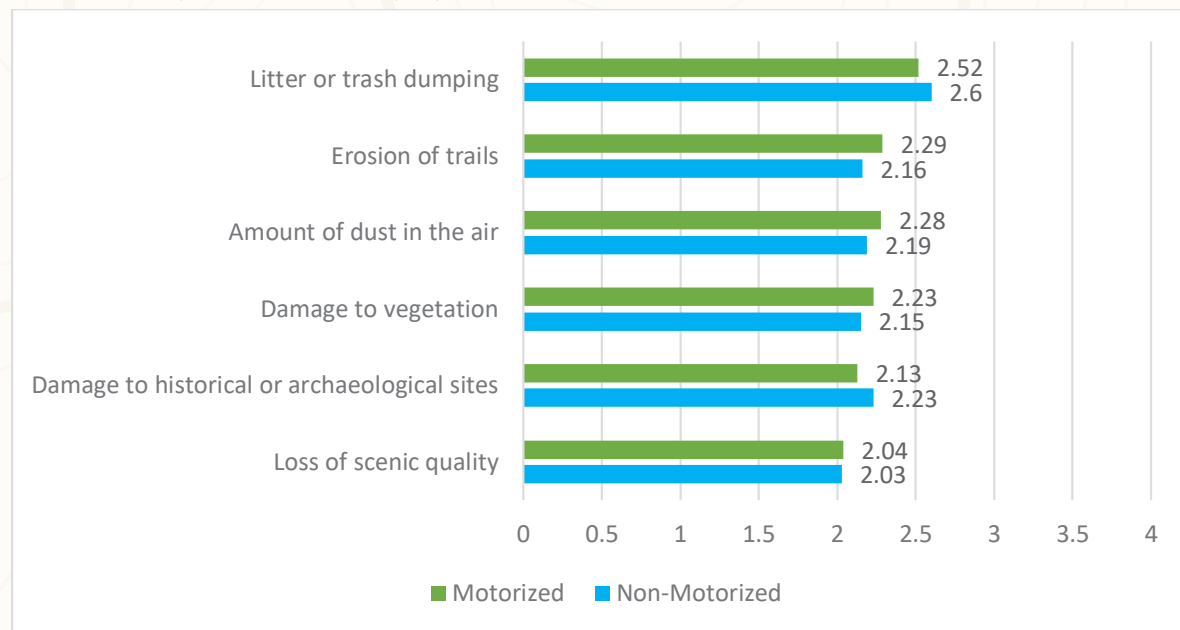


As seen above, both motorized and non-motorized users employ a host of tools to find and use trails. Motorized users in Pima County most often use GPS at 70% of them using this tool, also utilizing other tools in high numbers such as smartphone apps (51%), trail signs (46%) and word of mouth (36%). Non-motorized users (64%) rely heavily on word of mouth and other popular tools a little less such as trail signs (50%), smartphone apps (45%) and informal websites or blogs with user-generated content (39%). This information can help understand users in order to reach them on platforms that they frequently use.

User Concerns and Management Priorities:

The next three figures compare all of Pima County's motorized and non-motorized trail users' mean ratings of trail-related issues on a 4-point scale ranging from 1 equals "not a problem" to 4 equals "a serious problem" for environmental and social concerns and 1 equals "not important" to 4 equals "very important" for trail management priorities. The concerns and priorities are in order from highest (top of figure) to lowest (bottom of figure) importance to motorized users. Finally, because the number of respondents in a given category continues to decrease as the original sample is divided into subgroups, please note that findings below may not reflect a sufficient number of cases to make a statement that is generalizable to the experiences of all users within the county.

Environmental Concerns of Trail Users

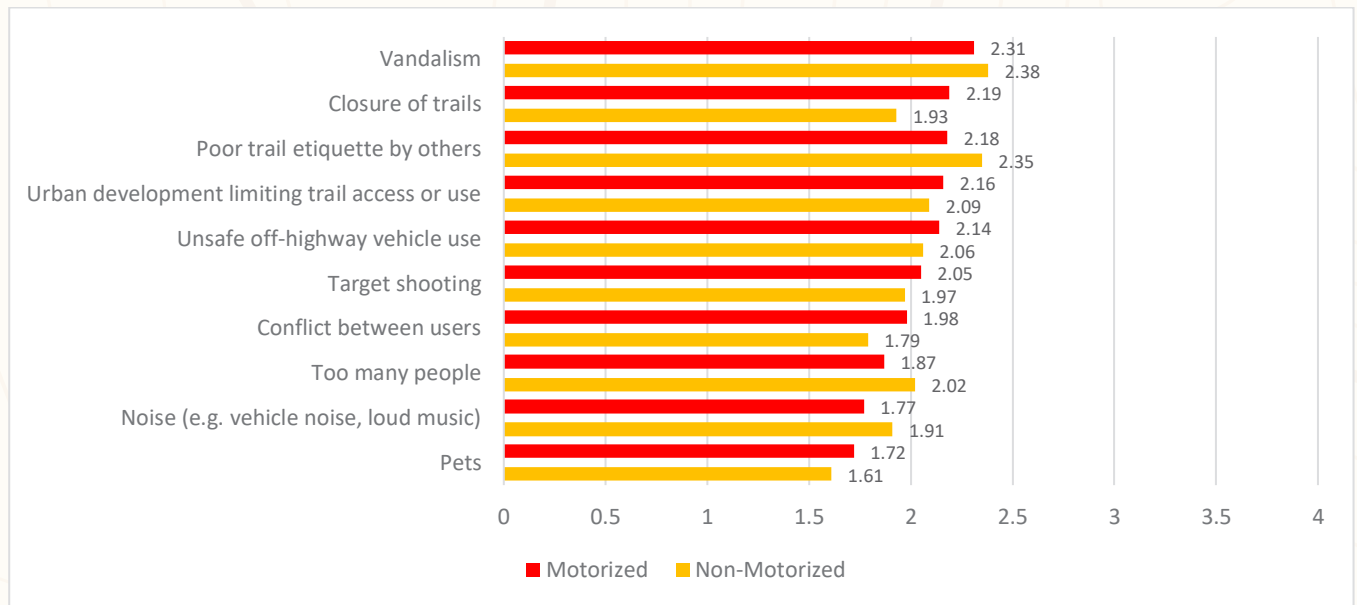


"Thinking about possible environmental and cultural conditions that might negatively affect your trail experience, how much of a problem is each of the following on the Arizona trails you use most for recreation activities?"

As seen above, the environmental concerns of both non-motorized and motorized trail users are very similar. Mean ratings indicate that the number one concern for both groups is litter/trash dumping. The second highest means differed between groups: for non-motorized users, damage to historical or archaeological sites was second, and for motorized users, erosion of trails has the second-highest mean rating. For non-motorized and motorized users, amount of dust in the air was the third-highest mean.



Social Concerns of Trail Users

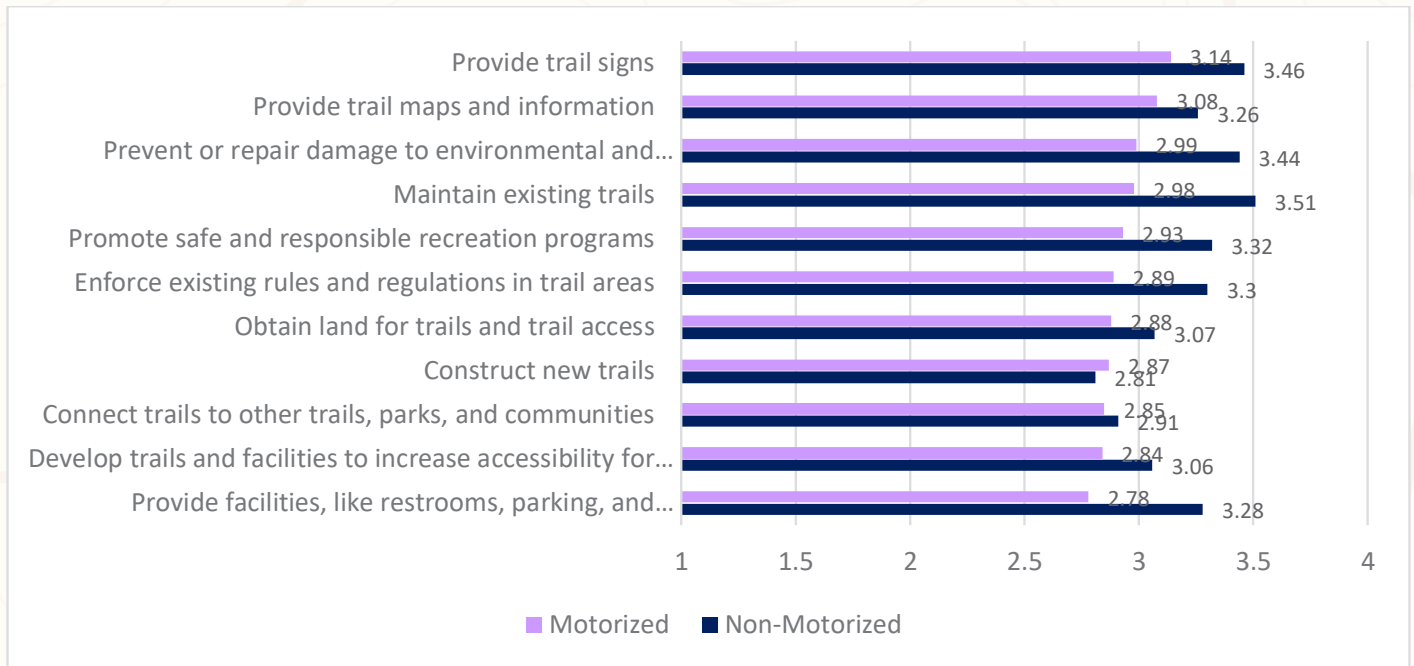


“Thinking about possible social conditions that might negatively affect your trail experience, how much of a problem is each of the following on the Arizona trails you use most for recreation activities?”

The above figure shows the mean rankings of social issues on trails by motorized and non-motorized users. Non-motorized and motorized users' top social concern is vandalism. For motorized users, the second-highest mean rating is closure of trails, whereas the second highest mean is poor trail etiquette by others for non-motorized users. This social issue has the third highest mean rating for motorized users. Non-motorized users third highest mean rating is urban development limiting trail access or use. Both groups share similar social concerns around vandalism, user etiquette and access to trails.



Management Priorities of Trails Users



“How important to you are the following trail management priorities?”

The above figure depicts the management priorities of each user group. Non-motorized users' mean ratings are almost all higher, indicating that they attribute a higher level of importance to each of the issues than the motorized user group. Two of the three trail management issues with the highest mean ratings were similar across user groups: providing trail signs (highest mean for motorized users, second-highest for non-motorized users) and preventing or repairing damage to environmental and cultural sites near trails (second highest rating for motorized users, third for non-motorized users). However, the trail management issue with the highest mean rating for non-motorized users is maintaining trails. Motorized users' second highest mean rating is providing trail maps and information. Motorized users appear to want more available materials with trail-related information and, similar to non-motorized users are concerned with environmental and cultural sites near trails.

The findings above can help counties and regions to plan, seek and allocate resources for motorized and non-motorized trail recreation. However, it must be noted that the data for this plan was collected prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, which is likely to have impacted the incidence of recreation participation on trails within the state. The information from this and the statewide plan may then be used as a baseline for future studies to identify impacts of COVID-19 on trail-related recreation.





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