

**Subject: [Fwd: Fw: Fromme Recreational Usage Issues]**

**Date:** Mon, 01 Mar 2004 16:18:42 -0800

**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

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**Subject: Fw: Fromme Recreational Usage Issues**

**Date:** Mon, 01 Mar 2004 16:08:03 -0800

**From:** Johnny Smoke <jsmoke@telus.net>

**To:** fonvca@fonvca.org

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Johnny Smoke](mailto:Johnny.Smile)

**To:** [ecrist@dnv.org](mailto:ecrist@dnv.org)

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**Sent:** Saturday, February 28, 2004 3:15 PM

**Subject:** Fromme Recreational Usage Issues

Dear Mr. Crist,

I am not in the habit of writing letters to council, but your motion ([http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council\\_Reports/392877.pdf](http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council_Reports/392877.pdf)) has got me motivated to respond. I am a 33 year resident of the North Shore. I have actually voted for you on several occasions. I appreciate the way that you can stir up issues. However, I feel you are making the wrong decision on this issue. Honestly, I feel you are dangerously close to grandstanding on this particular point.

You see, I make my living from cycling. So do my 23 co-workers. So do another 150 (approximately) other people on the North Shore. In addition, there are as many as ten times that many who directly benefit from the spin-offs that this industry brings to the area. In fact, we all benefit on the North Shore from this activity. It's a fair estimate that the direct economic impact from this industry (retail sales of bicycles and accessories) is approximately \$15 million. It's a big number.

There is also tourism. The North Shore has garnered a world wide reputation for our well managed and maintained trail network. This brings in tourism dollars, dollars from outside our economy, the most important kind of dollars. I rode with people from 14 different countries here last year.

Now money isn't everything, but it is a good indicator of many positive things. Food on tables, roofs over head, that sort of thing. The kind of people employed in this industry tend to make lower wages. This translates to many employed young people. It is a positive undertaking. As an industry, we promote environmentally positive changes to lifestyles. Many families participate in this activity together. For many young people it's an opportunity to test their personal limits in a legal and healthy manner.

The issue here is not bicycles, it's people. A user is a user is a user. It makes very little difference to the forest whether or not a bicycle tire or a boot travels through it. The physical impact is approximately the same. But there is simply no concession to accessing the forest in this area. It doesn't really matter how you choose to discriminate between users, if there are enough of them then there will be conflicts and there will be impacts. Look no further than the Grouse Grind for proof.

Also, this is NOT a climax ecosystem we are talking about here. It's not pristine wilderness, it's not old growth forest. It's a heavily impacted, second growth sub-urban forest. Pretty much an abandoned industrial site. It's durable. It's resilient.

What disturbs me most is that the District is getting a really good deal on biking. We are blessed with this world class resource and it's cost NOTHING for the District to develop. In fact, the lack of support has contributed to the conflict.

The solution is simple. Provide a public access point for bikes (and hikers for that matter) with ample parking, restroom and changing facilities and a well built access to the dirt road up Fromme. Legitimize the activity.

The biking community is strongly interested in co-operating and finding mutually acceptable solutions to this conflict. As a member of that community, I am available any time if you wish to discuss solutions to this issue.

Thank you for your interest in this issue.

Sincerely,

John Matthews  
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cc/

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