

Subject: FW: Forwarding request by Ernie Crist

Date: Fri, 11 Mar 2005 23:04:18 -0800

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James_Ridge@dnv.org>, "Susan Rogers" <Susan_Rogers@dnv.org>, "Richard Boulton" <Richard_Boulton@dnv.org>

CC: <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>

I am forwarding this email to you for your information;

Ernie Crist

From: Art Levit [<mailto:alevit1@pacbell.net>]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2005 10:11 PM
To: Ernie Crist
Subject: Forwarding request by Ernie Crist

Per the following request, here is a copy of an email I sent to Mr Crist:

(Dear Mr. Levit:

I am in receipt of an email on Mountain Biking which you sent to the Mayor and Council of the District of North Vancouver on February 27, 2005. I wish to thank you for your effort. I found your information very useful. I would appreciate if your could the same message again to Criste@dnv.org;

Thank you,

Yours truly.

Ernie Crist, Councillor)

Dear Council members,

I understand you are considering opening some trails to mountain biking.

As a lover of the outdoors and wilderness, I am writing to recommend you do whatever you can to blunt the mountain biking onslaught into your outdoor areas. There is an ongoing fight here in the San Francisco Bay Area between mountain bikers and other wilderness users. The bikers especially want to use single-track (ie narrower) trails for their sport since they get the greatest thrills riding down them. Unfortunately, they rapidly damage trails (many of which have existed for years without degradation by people on foot or even horseback), are dangerous to other users, and are rarely satisfied with riding on fire roads or riding on paved surfaces.

Here in the East Bay, we have a system of parks regulated by the East Bay Regional Parks District. Rules here forbid bikes on trails narrower than 8 feet. This is enforced and violators are slapped with a considerable fine (I think it is currently \$275). This is good, but there are other city parks, such as Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland, that don't enforce such rules. My 88 yr-old father was nearly knocked down a 20 foot embankment when a biker came down a steep trail out of control. I have had several similar experiences. They are dangerous and disrespect the rules. Often when I find them on one of the narrow trails in Joaquin Miller that is off limits for mtn. bikes during the winter months, they tell me they didn't know there was such a restriction, ignoring the signs clearly posted at trail junctions.

There is a vocal bike lobby, partly supported by the mountain bike industry. You must take what the bikers say individually and through their organizations as at least partly economically motivated.

Art Levit MD
Oakland, CA
alevit1@pacbell.net

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