

Subject: [Fwd: The issue of mountain biking on Mt Fromme]

Date: Thu, 17 Feb 2005 12:30:10 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: The issue of mountain biking on Mt Fromme

Date: Thu, 17 Feb 2005 00:15:25 -0800

From: Iain Warren <theprosoccerfan@hotmail.com>

To: dnv council@dnv.org, fonvca@fonvca.org, jcuthbert@dnv.org, mmckeonholmes@dnv.org, rwalton@dnv.org, anixon@dnv.org, jharris@dnv.org, lmuri@dnv.org, ecris@dnv.org

Hello,

My name is Iain Warren and I'm writing you this email in response to the proposed moratorium on mountain biking on mt fromme. I was quite shocked when i read an article on this being proposed by Mr. Crist, but i respect his opinion. I've grown up and still live on Vancouver Island, in Parksville particularly, and ever since i started mountain biking the north shore mountains and fromme in particular was my mecca that i yearned to ride. When I finally got the oppurtunity to ride the mountain for the first time last year, i was having the time of my life and i fell in love with the north shore. Now i frequent the trails on the mountain about once a month, as long as the trails are open. I also visit the north shore to do things like buy my present mountain bike, cycling clothing, bike video's and such. Along with that and the meals or snacks that i have while i am over there also puts a lot more money into the economy, and I would say in the last year alone i've spent about \$2,000 on the north shore related to mountain biking and my trips. To see the trails on Mt. Fromme be closed permanently, would be an atrocisty. I would most likely not mountain bike over there anymore and I would have no real reason to spend my money either. This being said i have planned on transferring from Malaspina U-C to Cap College into their outdoor recreation program and i hope that i can continue my passion of mountain biking, hiking and exploring on the north shore mountains. Mt Fromme has been riden for many years and yes some environmental damage has occurred, but no more than your car pollutes, or the damage to the envionment that your paved driveway or house makes in a given year. I do not drive because i believe it is extremely detremental to the environment, so i ride my bike everywhere and that includes up mountain highway to get to the great trails on Mt Fromme. The sport has changed and has had quite an extreme following of athletes seeking adventure, freedom, independence, fufillment, friendship and a connection with nature. I find these things everytime i ride on Fromme, and i hope that i will not lose this oppurtunity to ride such a great place. Trail maintenance and sustainability is a major issue with land use and what we as mountain bikers do. We encourage a 'ride not slide' policy and this helps to lower the damage to the forest floor. Merv Wilkinson operates a sustainable logging practice on his forested property in Cedar, BC, he also has many trails used by many including hikers and cyclists. I a recent visit he gave me insight into the idea that if i want to use the trails and potentially take advantage of what the environment has to offer then i better be willing to step forward and do my part to prevent, fix and sustain the trails and the environment that i ride. I think about that whenever i ride and when i do trail maintenance days with my local mountain bike club and on my own. Mt Fromme, has everything most people want, trails, nature, mass forests to get lost in and found again, freedom, and fun. These trails mean so much to the people of the North Shore, Lower Mainland and the rest of north america. The trails on the 'shore' are world renowned and visited. If the trails on mt fromme are closed all those riders are going to want to ride as much as they can on the other two mountains on the north shoren and that will cause much more environmental damage. Perhaps the idea of a temporary moratorium should be put in place for the rest of the winter season and then in the spring associations such as the North Shore Mountain Bike Association (NSMBA), nsmb.com, many of the cycling clubs, cycling related businesses and the district of north shore should meet and discuss how we can create sustainability, and this is the key, once all sides agree on a course of action then it should be set in motion. In tum this would allow for maintenance teams to enter the trails and do evaluations and set plans on how to fix the damage and ensure that its able to be sustained with useage. If a permanent moratorium was put in place many mountain bikers would break this bylaw and ride the mountain, but it would also cause much outrage and have a massive economic impact on the surrounding community including the businesses we own and are employed by. Hopefully I will one day be able to expand my tour guiding business into a company that can do tours on the north shore and especially Mt Fromme. Thank you all very much for your time and i hope this has been an informative letter that if anything notifies you of my opinion that is shared by many of us in the mountain biking community. Thank you once again.

Iain Warren

theprosoccerfan@hotmail.com

1-250-951-5771