

Subject: FW: mountain bike use

Date: Fri, 25 Feb 2005 21:01:04 -0800

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

To: <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>, "Senior Management Committee" <managemcomm@dnv.org>, "Susan Rogers" <Susan_Rogers@dnv.org>, "Richard Boulton" <Richard_Boulton@dnv.org>

From: JASMIN1931@aol.com [<mailto:JASMIN1931@aol.com>]

Sent: Friday, February 25, 2005 6:14 PM

To: Janice_Harris@dnv.org---Mayor Angila_Bains@dnv.org; Mayor and Council - DNV

Subject: mountain bike use

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February 25, 2005

Re: Mountain bikes on the North shore (BC)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Here in Southern California, the issue of multi-use on trails has been an ongoing problem for the past fifteen years. I am chair of the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force of the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club recognizes that mountain biking can be a legitimate activity on single-track trails; however, before any trail is open to bike use, it has to be evaluated for safety, standards of grade and sight lines, potential conflicts with other users, and environmental impacts. Only then, should the trail be opened to mountain bikes. There are many, many trails in our mountains that are closed to bikes because they threaten the safety and enjoyment of other users and are too narrow, steep or otherwise unsuitable for multi-use. Bikes definitely impact trails and cause erosion and threats to habitat. Bike use should, in most cases, be limited to wide dirt roads or pavement.

The American Hiking Society, a prestigious organization which originally supported mountain bike use on narrow trails, has drastically changed their position and no longer supports multi-use on narrow paths because of the impact on the environment, the safety aspect for all users, and the infringement on the enjoyment by other users.

We recommend that your trails be closed to mountain bikes, unless all of the above criteria are satisfied.

Most cordially,

Mary Ann Webster, Chair

Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, Sierra Club

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