

**Subject: FW: University of California, Berkeley, Long Range Development Plan: DEIR Comment**

**Date:** Mon, 26 Apr 2004 13:07:45 -0700

**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**To:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>

**CC:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>

I AM FORWARDING THIS MESSAGE FROM MR. MIKE VANDEMAN FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

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

From: Mike Vandeman [<mailto:mjvande@pacbell.net>]

Sent: April 25, 2004 3:11 PM

Subject: University of California, Berkeley, Long Range Development

Plan: DEIR Comment

Sent to: 2020LRDP@cp.berkeley.edu

Gentlepersons:

The Patrick Point Trail, which starts across from an "antenna farm" along Grizzly Peak Blvd., crosses Alameda whipsnake habitat (it is a federally Threatened species). It is used frequently by mountain bikers, in violation of University policy. Their use of the trail is destroying whipsnake habitat, as well as endangering legitimate pedestrian users of the area (hikers). Mountain bikers are using that and the Panoramic Trail (parallel to the Jordan Trail, above it along the ridgetop) for high-speed downhill racing in full "body armor" (full face helmets and body padding). I have seen them traverse the trail twice in one day (they must have had someone carry them to the top of the hill in a vehicle). In addition, mountain bikers are creating their own trails through the woods south of Strawberry Creek (above Strawberry Creek Recreation Area), destroying more wildlife habitat.

The mountain biking is harming native wildlife. I saw a ringneck snake on the Panoramic Trail that had been crushed and killed by a mountain biker. Its body was broken in two places, separated by the width of a mountain bike tire. (I delivered it to Biology Professor William Lidicker, who verified my identification.) It is inevitable that Alameda whipsnakes will also be killed by mountain bikers.

The Patrick Point Trail is unnecessary, and should be closed and revegetated, to protect the whipsnake. There is a fire road that can be used by hikers to get to the same destinations, which is also safer. Mountain bikers have eroded the Patrick Point Trail so much that it is unsafe to walk on.

In addition, the ban on bicycles in the natural areas behind campus should be enforced. I have been hit by mountain bikers several times. They are hostile and belligerent toward anyone who tries to inform them that bikes aren't allowed on those trails. I suspect that some of the University police are mountain bikers themselves (e.g. Officer James Sprecher #61 <jdsiv@uclink4.berkeley.edu>), which may be one reason that there has been ZERO enforcement of the bicycle ban in the last decade or more.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Vandeman

P.S. For more information on mountain biking and its impacts, see

<http://home.pacbell.net/mjvande>, especially


<http://home.pacbell.net/mjvande/mtb.htm>.

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I am working on creating wildlife habitat that is off-limits to humans ("pure habitat"). Want to help? (I spent the previous 8 years fighting auto dependence and road construction.)

<http://home.pacbell.net/mjvande>

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