

Subject: [Fwd: Alpine Recreation Strategic Study Workshop Comments]

Date: Mon, 04 Oct 2004 15:20:39 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Alpine Recreation Strategic Study Workshop Comments

Date: Mon, 04 Oct 2004 10:40:34 -0700

From: M E Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>

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CC: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>, Richard Walton <richard_walton@dnv.org>, Mayr and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, Senior Management Committee <managecomm@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

To All Concerned: I have come across something very interesting with regards to the Alpine Recreational Strategic Plan. At the Open House and Workshop my husband and I attended on September 29, all who attended were given sheets explaining the meaning of all Management Zones delegated to Fromme in the study.

There are four zones mentioned: Park Amenity & Infrastructure Zone; Multiple Purpose Recreation Zone (primary uses include hiking & mountain biking); Limited Mountain Recreation Zone (primary use is hiking); Preservation Zone. Each zone is ascribed Natural Characteristics, Existing Recreational Characteristics, Intent of Zone, Management Vision & Mitigation Measures, and Facilities Permitted. The KEY WORDS in Intent of Zone, mentioned in conjunction with the first three mentioned management zones, are: "**The intent of the zone is to provide for eco-based, low impact recreation.**" This includes the so called Multiple Purpose Recreation Zone which mentions mountain biking. Mountain biking is a **high impact** extreme/specialized sport. Therefore, it does not belong on Fromme as a recreational sport. It is pretty cut and dried, if you ask any intelligent person. You cannot advocate for low impact and eco-based recreation if you include mountain biking.

Under Management Vision & Mitigation Measures: Environmental Management, all zones state, "**Promote the sustainable management of forest, wildlife and watershed resources. Work to protect critical ecological features and increase biodiversity.**" Common sense tells us that the only way this can happen is to keep mountain biking, and other high impact, extreme/specialized sports out of Fromme. It does not take a "rocket scientist" to see that. It is clear as night and day. We should not be wasting our time trying to appease extreme sports groups if DNV truly wishes to be an Environmental Leader. In order for us to be able to **protect critical ecological features and increase biodiversity**, we have to tell the mountain bikers to stop riding in Fromme, in order to attain this goal. Anything less, is a grave contradiction towards proper environmental management. If the mountain bikers wish to use Fromme, they are welcome to hike it ---but, please leave their bikes at home. That is the only workable and sustainable answer for Fromme, and Mountain View Park (as it has become lumped into the Alpine OCP, and removed from the Lynn Valley OCP, as of late).

The only Zone which offers true protection for critical ecological features and offers real chance to increase biological diversity is the Preservation Zone. The intent of this zone is to, "provide for the highest level of retention and conservation of natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas, including old growth forest and major watercourses". The area will be managed for protection of these concerns. It is interesting, though, that Mountain View Park is not managed this way, or any attempt to do so. It is a critical habitat for a blue-listed "species at risk". Nothing has been done for true conservation of this park (the pond has yet to be fenced, and was run roughshod by the NSMBA members' children and dogs, on a June 2004 Trail Day). In light of these things I have pointed out --- what is wrong with this picture? The only reason the mountain bikers will not let go of Fromme is that they refuse to let go of any of their trails and structures --mostly illegally built. Seymour's mountainbike trails are getting to be too worn out with the mountain bike traffic going through it. A quote by Sharon Bader, president of the NSMBA, on a bulletin board thread on NSMB.com, recently: "**Can you imagine the state of the trails if Fromme had the same traffic as Seymour! YIKES!**" Need I say more? Please seriously consider a BAN on mountain biking on Fromme. By doing so, DNV will show strong Environmental Leadership. Thank you.

Monica Craver

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(Public comment "opening letter" attached to "Alpine Recreation Strategic Study, Sept. 29 Workshop comments" form sheet # 51)