

Subject: [Fwd: Mt. Fromme]

Date: Sun, 22 May 2005 19:08:59 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Mt. Fromme

Date: Mon, 16 May 2005 14:07:59 -0700

From: Michelle Lawton <michellelawton@shaw.ca>

To: council@dnv.org

CC: fonvca@fonvca.org

I have been a resident of North Vancouver for the past four years, and a homeowner here for the last year. I am a 35 year old male who has been riding on Mt. Fromme for the past 13 years. I now have 4 children at home and part of the reason I moved to North Vancouver and purchased a home was to make it more convenient to ride on Fromme. I am likely one of the minorities that ride on Fromme in that I have always rode my bike to the hill, even when residing in Burnaby I would ride over. I can sympathize with the residents who live at the top of Mountain Hwy. as Mtn bikers parking to ride here have become a seriously congested issue (which a parking lot would resolve).

As for the damage that mountain biking causes to the surrounding environment I have to say in the scheme of things this should be a relatively non-issue. This mountain side has been seriously reaped in the past by what we consider in British Columbia to be a renewable resource. Many of the trail on Fromme exist on former horse drawn logging roads that meander through the forest. The old growth Cedar stumps are everywhere you look on this mountain side. The roads incorporated with harvesting them over 100 years ago are hard to find. There are a few more prominent sections where logs were placed perpendicular to the roadway in boggy sections, yet for the most part (aside from the stumps) the roads created so long ago and the damage done by dragging these enormous cedars across the forest floor has long disappeared. When you look at Fromme from a distance it looks pristine with the exception of the recreational clear cutting that is known as Grouse mountain. Even a trip up the access road will reveal a step into the wilderness where bears, deer and wildbirds are frequently spotted and unless you are looking with an electron microscope the damage and destruction from mountain biking is not there. If I want to see permanent damage currently being done to the North Shore hills all I have to do is look towards Cypress Mt. The clearcutting and construction going on here rivals that of Coquitlams' Citadel Heights and the Westwood Plateau.

Mountain bikers are not wilderness destroyers, for the most part it is the exact opposite. I commute to work 40km a day by bike because I can and I'm not using fossil fuels. Close to half of my trips up Fromme do not leave the access road, they are for exercise and getting out in the wilderness. I can't help but wonder what would occur if the residents along Capilano Rd. were to start an upheaval about the traffic to Grouse Mountain. Would the tram be pulled off the hillside and the hundreds of hectares of clear cut be replanted? Mountain biking is a three season outdoor sport, should it not be allowed some latitude for existence.

Sean Edwards, a passionate cyclist.