

Subject: [Fwd: Will you please print this for a "balanced view"?]

Date: Fri, 27 May 2005 14:34:16 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Will you please print this for a "balanced view"?

Date: Fri, 27 May 2005 12:05:59 -0700

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

To: The North Shore Outlook <newsroom@northshoreoutlook.com>, jbeddall@northshoreoutlook.com, jmaloney@northshoreoutlook.com

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Letter to the Editor:

More information for the article on Mountain Biking's "Future" on the North Shore, if not soon contained and controlled within private recreational resorts, like that of Cypress and Whistler, etc.:

Contrasting views of mountain biking. Is this the future? IMBA (International Mountain Bike Association) 2005 "gradings"--

"Internationally, **British Columbia** retained its position from last year as the ultimate global mountain biking location. Whistler ski area's freeride park is the benchmark for lift-accessed mountain biking. B.C. advocates are taking a lead role on improving access by hosting the World Mountain Bike Conference in Vancouver. Finally, B.C. clubs do more than anyone to ensure the future of our sport by getting kids - **sometimes by the thousands** - on mountain bikes.

New Jersey received the lowest grade this year because of crowded trails, strong, anti-mountain biking opponents and trail-user conflicts."

While it seems BC is encouraging thousands of children into the yet uncontrolled sport, "to ensure the future" of the sport, New Jersey shows what happens when the trails get too crowded. Because of that, the State was given the "lowest grade". This proves the mountain biking sport will become unsustainable in large, uncontrolled numbers. DNV's parks and environment 2006 budget is down by \$100,000 from past years, and cannot convince anyone with a brain that DNV can control and monitor this sport on municipal forest lands in a consistent fashion. Their suggestion that the mountain bikers can "self-police" the sport on Fromme, or any other municipal forest and parkland, is naive. It is like asking the "mice to look after the cheese".

Eventually, the North Shore will become like New Jersey and the real "war in the woods" would begin. Fromme cannot sustain "thousands" of mountain bikers without incurring environmental damage, including loss of flora and fauna biodiversity. When the environment suffers, the economy suffers. The economic "benefits" of the sport, as stands now will, be negated by the ecological damage, which is irreplaceable and "priceless". All the "glorification and media hype" of off-road recreational activities in our Alpine forests and natural parks will not change that fact.

The real reason the mountain biking advocates are "force-feeding" this sport's existing free-ride is because they know it will be unsustainable in the future, and wish to milk it for all it is worth while they still can. It is that simple. Why else would there be four pages of pro-mountain bike articles each week over a period of four weeks-- piggy backing the present Mountain Bike Festival and Conference? Instead it will leave a bad taste in the mouth of many who read these articles critically. It is one of the most biased articles to come out of the North Shore Outlook News. Yes, I agree, the forest and parklands are for everyone's enjoyment. It is the types of activities one wishes to pursue that must be restricted to ensure equal and sustainable enjoyment by all. Off-road recreational vehicles, whether mechanized or motorized, *do not* belong in our municipal alpine forests and natural parklands. Thank you.

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