

Subject: [Fwd: Re: The NSMB.com thread]

Date: Fri, 27 May 2005 15:48:07 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Re: The NSMB.com thread

Date: Fri, 27 May 2005 15:43:07 -0700

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

To: Cam McRae <cam@nsmb.com>

CC: Councillor Ernie Crist <ecrist@dnv.org>, Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, Sharon Bader <bader@alumni.sfu.ca>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, Councillor Lisa Muri <lmuri@dnv.org>, Justin Beddall <sports@northshoreoutlook.com>

Dear Cam, et.al. :

I wish to sign off with wise words from a friend in California (--not M.V.). This *gal* has sat on a task force that has successfully banned mountain bikes from many parks and trails within her jurisdiction, and is still going strong. When someone is wise and successful at what they do, we can learn from them. But we have to have the ability and maturity to discern good evidence from bad evidence-- separate myth from fact. We always have to start with a template of measurement--without that "template", discernment is hopeless. I leave you with my friend's final words on this correspondence between us.

With regards to answering mountain bikers' "queries":

Stupid word play...gets no where. It's just arguing in circles. It is pointless to try to convince these people of the wrongness of their position. It's the "Me" generation. What they want is what they want. Arguments are useless. Actually they love to do this kind of circular word play, like a bunch of hyenas on a feed.

With regards to comments from mountain bikers on the NSMB.com bb that defiantly write about how they will continue to ride Fromme and elsewhere-- sanctioned or not:

It's the same MB attitude here. The only thing that makes it different here is to outlaw it and enforce the law. Recently I think I told you, **one of our Rangers chased a biker down and handcuffed him and confiscated his car.** That kind of action goes beyond stupid wordplay.

That, Cam, is the final and solid evidence. Good day.--Monica--

Cam McRae wrote:

Dear Monica,

Please provide evidence to support your claim that we are doing damage to the forest.

I have clear evidence to show that mountain biking is sustainable on Mount Fromme - photographic evidence even. I have been riding my bicycle on Mount Fromme for about 16 years. In that time I have seen the trails change some depending on traffic and weather conditions. The gratifying part is that if you look at older photos, when there was much less traffic, the condition of the trails isn't as good as it is now. In fact the trails have never been in better condition. To me this is a very compelling case for the argument that mountain biking is a sustainable activity on Mount Fromme when proper trail building techniques and maintenance are implemented.

The nsmba has been from the beginning been committed to preserving the environment . Indeed, as Councillor Crist might say, we'd be shooting ourselves in the foot if we weren't committed to protecting the woods we love so much.

Knowing how you generally respond I imagine you'll take this email in another direction so you don't have to confront the facts; the evidence that mountain biking can be a sustainable activity. I hope that for once you will take an honest look at the situation and attempt to work with us instead of against us.

We are not the enemy. We are concerned with wildlife and flora on Mount Fromme and in other natural areas. The nsmba offered

to provide the labour to solve the issues with mountain view park (which were caused by local youth rather than your average rider) long before any resolution was agreed to by council. In the end the solution council agreed upon, which has been very successful I might add, was identical to what the nsmba suggested. I would say this is the good news and it shows what can happen when groups try to work together rather than oppose each other mindlessly.

Sincerely,
Cam McRae

On 25-May-05, at 10:34 AM, M E Craver wrote:

Dear Cam: Thanks for the morning humour published on your website, today. I never laughed so hard!. A mountain biking teenager happened to e-mail me and alert me to the posted thread. It is clear your mind is closed, and nothing I say or do will change that fact. It is not I who will lose in the end, but the forest flora and fauna. It is not about me, but about the future state of natural and wild places and the problem of recreational over-use, especially by off-road vehicles of *any kind*. On the Mtn.Hwy/Grouse gravel service road you do no damage. Off of it you do. It is that simple. Long ago, our forefathers heavily logged the forest on Fromme, not understanding the implications of their actions. In the 21st century, you cannot reasonably say you do not understand the implications of your actions. That is the difference. I am not "perfect", but I do not *knowingly* go into the forest and do purposeful damage to it. There is only one being who lived on earth whocould claim perfection, and it was not "Crist".

Councillor Crist and I just happen to be the few "outspoken" ones (politician and private citizen), that's all. My position has been to advocate for sensible solutions for mountain biking-- like placing it in already *developed* recreational resorts with amenities in place -- not the continuing "free-ride" you have now, running roughshod over sensitive areas, or "modifying" the trails for a "better ride". The present situation is not feasible, nor economically/ecologically sound. My last letter was addressed to Councillor Crist and the general public. It was a "bait letter". You bit. Take care.

Monica Craver