

**Subject:** [Fwd: Fw: "Roam" (Mountain Biking Film) Critique]  
**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>  
**Date:** Mon, 09 Apr 2007 10:55:28 -0700  
**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

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**Subject:** Fw: "Roam" (Mountain Biking Film) Critique  
**From:** Monica Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>  
**Date:** Mon, 09 Apr 2007 10:50:17 -0700  
**To:** fonvca@fonvca.org  
**CC:** dnvCouncil@dnv.org

Dear FONVCA: The following is a "critique" of a locally produced film (Vancouver, BC), sent by a friend. It is time we hear other voices on this "hot potato subject". Mine isn't the only one.

This film shows what happens when mountain biking remains uncontained, uncontrolled and unregulated. There is no cultural merit to this type of mountain biking film. It is even sadder that our Mayor and Councillors, along with DNV Management Staff, continues support of mountain biking, in its present form, inside our public alpine forests.

How long will it take before their eyes are opened? How many more films like this will be made before saner minds constructively react against such destructive behaviour?

--Monica--

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**Thanks! It's a sad statement about our culture, that more people aren't outraged.**

M---

From: "Donald L. Gibbon"  
Subject: Re: Bikers and hikers face off over trail access in Marin County  
Date: Sun, 8 Apr 2007 15:11:20 -0400

Dear M---:

I have just returned from a showing of Banff Festival short films, one of which was titled Roam, about mountain biking. Here's the scoop on the film:

*Roam (Custom Edit)*

*Canada, 2006, 18 minutes*

*Directed & Produced by Darcy Wittenburg, Jamie Houssian/The Collective*

*Website: [www.thecollectivefilm.com](http://www.thecollectivefilm.com)*

*Rating: General-No Advisory*

*Focus: Mountain Biking*

*Roam is a mountain-bike film that follows the travels of the world's top riders as they explore new places to ride, and visit some of the notorious meccas of mountain biking such as, Moab, UT and Whistler, BC.*

**By the end of the film I was just furious! Here were some world-class mountain bikers, tearing through some venues that were either natural wonders or historic gems... with not a single thought to the values**

of the PLACE they were in. Two of them, Whistler and Moab, I know fairly well.

Whistler is almost totally humanized. The "trail" the bikers were using had been made into what amounted to a giant pin-ball machine for bikes. You could jump from ladder to ladder, ricocheting off trees, hillsides and stumps, going at lightning speed, your only worries about whether the other guy was going to beat you to the next trail intersection and cut you off. The lovely forest might as well have been painted in place. It had ZERO value to the riders except in so far as it provided them muscle- and gravity-based thrills.

Moab, on the other hand, is wide open, a water-sculpted now-oh-so-dry wonderland of rock and canyon... and plants and wildlife. When I last went there I had a local guide with intimate decades-long knowledge of the place and its former Anasazi inhabitants. We went in silence, on foot, slowly. We listened to the wind and particularly to the birds. The canyon wren is a magical presence in the distance, a bit like the tinkling of the cow bells and the sound of mountain water in the Alps. We approached the petrolgyphs with reverence, gently, thoughtfully. The ever-present Navajo sandstone has been eroded into almost erotic bulging curved forms, symbols of time and process. But these guys went screaming through all this, without a single thought to the essence of the place, not only oblivious but full of hubris and selfishness. I have seen too much destruction in this place to not lump these characters with the other destroyers. It was disgusting.

Then we went off to the beautiful city of Prague where our heros picked up their nefarious deeds again, this time desecrating the works of man. No one would argue their skillfulness, only their taste. The monuments they bounced over and on had personal significance to those who built them and those memorialized by them. They might as well have been riding on the altars of a church for all the thought they seemed to give to honoring the owners of the public spaces. It was disgusting... again.

**These people need to be corraled, kept in separate places where they can do no damage, because everything I see of them tells me that they simply don't care.** Those of us who DO care about the values of the natural and even the urban world cannot allow the bikers to set the agenda and destroy generations of urban caring and millions of years of Mother Nature's caring... just so they can show off their testosterone. Mountain biking at full speed through the city or country is destructive of the values that were there before the bikes came on the scene. Period. The answer is: NO! What was the question?

Donald L. Gibbon  
Consulting Naturalist  
Pittsburgh, PA

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