

**Subject:** [Fwd: Vancouver Sun Editorial]  
**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>  
**Date:** Sat, 06 Oct 2007 14:41:22 -0700  
**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

---

**Subject:** Vancouver Sun Editorial  
**From:** Monica Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>  
**Date:** Sat, 06 Oct 2007 14:22:53 -0700  
**To:** fonvca@fonvca.org



Saturday » October  
6 » 2007  
Thursday » October  
4 » 2007

## Put mountain biking where it belongs

Monica Craver  
Special to the Sun

Thursday, October 04, 2007

Re: Big Air was born in B.C., Sept. 22

As I began to read Doug Ward's article on mountain biking, it seemed like it was just going to be yet another media glorification of this renegade sport inside our forests.

The article did not mention the "dark side" of mountain biking -- especially in connection with the North Shore free-ride -- with its devastating injuries and continuing damage to the natural environment.

The North Shore free-ride inside our North Shore mountains advocates: Riding four seasons a year -- rain, shine, sleet or snow; group night riding with bright helmet headlamps; bringing along their dogs (sometimes several) to run amok in the forest -- day and night! Small, green footprint? Not mountain biking.

Therefore, I was especially pleased to read the good news regarding this sport in the last paragraph of the article.

I have been advocating for the containment of mountain biking inside ski resorts for several years. That is where it works (that is where the revenue is), and it will greatly help protect our fragile

alpine temperate rainforests on the North Shore.

I am glad to hear that mountain biking is moving into many ski resorts around the world. It seems the District of North Vancouver's own "Alpine Recreational (Mountain Bike) Strategic Plan" is already becoming a dinosaur in light of this "new" information.

Mountain bikers already have a multi-jurisdictional place to free-ride on the North Shore -- the Lower Seymour Conservation Area.

There are three ski resorts on the North Shore -- Cypress, Grouse and Seymour -- that cannot see the reason for pursuing the "bike park" course of reasoning as long as our North Shore municipalities continue to encourage the extreme free-ride inside their alpine lands adjacent to these ski resorts. It defies common sense. There is no revenue in it, therefore the answer is obvious.

It's time for the mountain bikers to face reality and sit down for some practical dialogue about the future of their sport, and negotiate with these three ski resorts. Sadly, the "hard-core" mountain biking minority continue to strongly push for their "right" to free-ride, unabated, on the North Shore.

If ski resort-based mountain bike parks work, let's encourage our municipal, provincial and federal authorities to guide mountain biking in that direction.

Monica Craver lives in North Vancouver.

© The Vancouver Sun 2007

---

Copyright © 2007 CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#) All rights reserved.

<b>Vancouver Sun Editorial.eml</b>	<b>Content-Type:</b> message/rfc822
	<b>Content-Encoding:</b> 7bit