

Subject: [Fwd: "Management Solutions" for Unauthorized Trails]
From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>
Date: Mon, 14 Jan 2008 12:31:58 -0800
To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: "Management Solutions" for Unauthorized Trails
From: Monica Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>
Date: Mon, 14 Jan 2008 11:52:54 -0800
To: fonvca@fonvca.org

Dear FONVCA:

This is the truth about mountain biking trails advocacy, as presented at the **2006 World Mountain Biking Conference** (why is DNV continuing to enable this kind behaviour inside our temperate rain forests?):

http://www.trailcrewdesign.com/news_1.htm

B 301 - Management Solutions for Unauthorized Trails

As a builder of many so called "Illegal" trails I had a personal interest in this session. The talk was given by Jim Richardson of Surrey Off Road Cycling, Shawn Gurney from the City of Surrey and Mark Peterson from Kona Bicycles. Shawn Gurney from the City of Surrey started the discussion and talked about renegade trails built by "kids" in Surrey. They showed pictures of poorly constructed obstacles and talked about why these cannot take place in an urban setting. The City of Surrey, like many other cities in Canada and I'm sure the United States, have been dealing with the issue of renegade trails for some time now. **Their response was to use the land some of the existing trails were on and create a city sanctioned downhill mountain bike park.** Some of the old trails were uses, some new ones were created. The construction of park features meets the requirements of city playground regulations. The Surrey Off Road Cycling club has been involved in aiding the city in their development of the park. A great bike park was created for the residents of Surrey and has set the tone for many other municipalities to follow suit.

While I share their opinion that in urban settings these renegade trails may not have a place, I feel that without these "illegal" trails our sport would not exist. Most, if not all trails I have ridden were at some point considered "illegal". **Many of these "kids" who build these trails are 30+ years old and are simply trying to create a place for them and their friends to ride their bikes. The city building a park using an "illegal" trail system only confirms this.** We have built our sport which now includes city bike parks, lift accessed ski resorts, indoor playgrounds all on the backs of those out in the bush. ***The guys hanging in the trees have given us all a sport in which we can now have day jobs. The way some might see it is that in areas with a lack of legitimate trail access, if we all go out and build trails then someone has to do something about it. Maybe this approach will give us a legitimate place to ride our bikes? Obviously this isn't the answer I'm advocating but sometimes do not the ends justify the means?***

Presenter, Aaron Simms, spent much of the past 5 years traveling to different places riding and digging. He lives, eats, sleeps and breaths mountain bikes. It's become a lifestyle and creating Trail Crew Design Corp is just a natural extension of that passion.

"Management Solutions" for Unauthorized Trails.eml
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