

Subject: Acting parks manager responds to my letter

From: "John S." <goforaspin@gmail.com>

Date: 08/12/2013 10:15 PM

To: editor@nsnews.com

CC: fonvca@fonvca.org

Editor,

I would like to thank Susan Rogers MBCSLA, CSLA, DNV Acting Parks Manager for her response Nov. 30 to my original email on Nov. 21 to District council re: Mr. Mark Wood NSMBA Delegation 5.1. Council Agenda Nov.18th, 2013.

The main point of my letter to council and letter to the editor of The North Shore News was to fully support Couns. Nixon's suggestion at the Nov.18th council meeting that there should be a trails reassessment review since none have occurred since 2007.

In Ms. Rogers letter to me she writes that "*The parks Department is currently in discussion to consider some independent environment review to evaluate the condition of some of the key trails. We agree that it would provide opportunity to benchmark the condition of the trails*".

In response I would like to point out that in my opinion all trails are of equal importance and not just a few key trails. I would also hope that the reference to to bench marking not be associated with the 2007 review that was done by Dave Diplock of Bear Consulting who has appeared at Council meetings representing NSMBA. The 2007 assessment by Dave Diplock of Bear Consulting should be considered invalid as we move forward with a bench mark or a baseline assessment for our trails.

A completely independent review is required to truly decide the baseline of condition of our trails. The results of such an independent assessment should determine what course we take next with regards to the use of our trails, whether they are expanded or decommissioned.

I would hope that an assessment would also determine what is the carrying capacity of the mountain? At what point is the tipping point? It's not just the individual health of each trail, it is the over all health of the Forest on the mountains.

We must look after the natural areas that we have remaining.

Sincerely,
John Sharpe
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North Vancouver