

Subject: Fwd: How Scofflaw Mountain Bikers Bully and Win

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

Date: 13/01/2016 11:27 AM

To: Corrie Kost <corrie@kost.ca>

No post. FONVCA review.

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:How Scofflaw Mountain Bikers Bully and Win

Date:Wed, 13 Jan 2016 11:13:50 -0800

From:Monica Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>

To:DNV Mayor and Council <council@dnv.org>

CC:fonvca@fonvca.org

Dear Mayor and Council:

This OP-ED reminds me of the hordes of unwashed mountain bikers the District of North Vancouver faced over the years during the "Fromme Alpine Strategic Plan"... intimidating, bullying and sometimes threatening the opposition to their ongoing Freeride (where I now know the actual "Strategy" was to pander to the scofflaw MTBers all along). I realize I had said I wouldn't write you anymore... but this article is just too good not to share.

And depending on the final outcome of TK's "trial by fire" (mostly at the hands of the MTBers, themselves) I may or may not decide to continue sending articles of note, like this one, below. Probably not... since it is most likely that DNV Council and Senior Management, pandering to the NSMBA, will fall into the quicksand of their own making someday.

Maybe, when the mountain bikers are charged/fined, etc. for vandalizing the forests, and laying objects and sabotaging trails, I will breathe a sigh of relief that some care and common sense still exists in DNV (some of those incriminating reports have since have been "censored" by the NSMBA's own dubious "Policy" which states more truly the reason behind such subterfuge):

"...and that the reported information does not jeopardize relations with Land Managers or negatively impact stewardship efforts." [Policy on Social Media Properties and Partnerships](#)

(Can you believe it? There in black and white! But, from my own experience. I have found the land managers feel the NSMBA can do no wrong, even when they are doing obvious wrong --so the happy yahoo "MTB love-in" continues, rewarding NSMBA's wrongdoings even more. So what has the NSMBA to fear, then? It's an ongoing ruse played on us all, especially naive law-abiding folks who have little understanding how the MTBers' sly game is played)

The more NSMBA are adulated, the further they will have to fall... perhaps sooner, rather than later, would do a lot to help staunch the wounds they continue to inflict in the forests.

This is the ugly face of the mountain biking cult throughout North America....The selfish buggers want everything... (and read some of the too many mtbers' comments, below the article. Talk about a flame-up! Why are MTBers so defensive and abusive, when they have gained so much already? And why do so many politicians and land managers end up kissing these MTBers' rubbery rears, anyhow?) I hear more NEW trails are in the works for the NSMBA, and have already cut a few more NEW trails through "pristine" forest ground. Such insatiable appetites for destruction...

However, they (NSMBA) have taken advantage of "gaping loopholes" on CMHC lands. Should we keep applauding the scofflaw NSMBA for their wiles? And all those corporations, and foundations falling over themselves financing the NSMBA in what can only be called ecological vandalism (breaking a myriad of environmental laws and bylaws, while DNV and other jurisdictions continue to turn a blind eye to it all?). DNV's ongoing aiding and abetting the NSMBA in numerous wrongdoing is going to come and bite back, someday -- with or without my involvement... Will it be on your watch, or will it fall on another sad sack Council that takes that fall, some year, for this Mayor and Council's ongoing sins in the name of protecting the little gods of mountain biking? It remains to be seen.

I have highlighted a few points... for easy reading... for those still blinded by the "dazzling lights" of the NSMBA propaganda machine...

http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2016/01/post_153.html

Don't let mountain bikers overwhelm natural areas (OPINION)

<43 Photos> *"A group of mountain bikers protest new Portland park rules banning them from a River View Area Natural Area. Over 200 bikers attended." Thomas Boyd/Staff*

January 12, 2016

By John Miller

Droves of mountain bikers may be coming soon to a natural area near you, if their lobbyists prevail.

In response to aggressive politicking by mountain bike groups and their powerful corporate sponsors, Portland is undertaking a \$300,000 off-road cycling master plan. A consulting firm will develop a citywide plan for a system of off-road cycling facilities such as sustainable trail networks, skill parks and pump tracks for a variety of users, including adults, children and whole families. The master plan will also identify where new trails might be built.

This is where it gets controversial. Normal hiking trails are no fun for mountain bikers. Mountain bikers need elevation drop for speed, and more land for longer runs. They seem to thrive on bumps, jumps, sharp turns and downhill speed. Will the master plan authority trump existing land use, including protected natural areas that are currently managed for minimum human impact? Mountain bikers want access to natural areas where higher impact (active) recreation has not been allowed. They argue that mountain biking is passive recreation, like nature observation, bird watching and hiking. The Northwest Trail Alliance correctly portrays mountain biking as a healthy sporting activity, but it ignores the impact of a large number of fast moving vehicles in a small natural area and other aspects of the sport.

Case in point: The newly forming River View Natural Area is a small, 147-acre parcel occupying steep slopes with two perennial and five seasonal streams that flow into the Willamette River. Before 2011, this land was owned by River View Cemetery, which regarded off-road cyclists as trespassers on private property.

Picture a commercial operator shuttling bikers back to the top via Taylors Ferry Road for continuous downhill runs. Consider a professional mountain biker giving lessons and holding workshops in a protected natural area. How many mountain bikers per day traversing the slopes would disturb this relatively small natural area?

A mountain bike parts supplier has offered to bankroll building and maintaining all trails in the River View Natural Area. Will we allow a commercial sponsor to freely use this public space? Organized groups of mountain bikers are standing by, eager to build new trails, free of charge. What will City Council do when banned mountain bikers storm City Hall en masse on Jan. 14 demanding access on the day of the hearing for the River View Natural Area Management Plan? Will Portland let mountain bikers and their commercial interests dig up our natural areas?

We all should support a network of off-road cycling trails that

interconnects towns and communities. And, of course, we'd favor facilities that provide a range of fun activities and experiences. But we must think critically about where to draw the line between protecting nature and developing new recreation. What kinds of natural areas can support active recreation?

There is a global invasion of nature underway. Will mountain bikers gain access to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and wilderness areas? Failing to get into the Bandon State Natural Area, will a golfer baron gain land between camps Meriwether and Clark to build a golf course? Will international bottlers be allowed to take pristine water from a sacred spring near Cascade Locks?

Locally, Portland has been a global leader in protecting and restoring urban wilderness. Will Portland's protected natural areas be called into service by the off-road cycling master plan?

Let's hope common sense prevails and we continue to be good stewards of the land.

John Miller is a retired computer scientist and independent iOS developer living in Southwest Portland near the River View Natural Area.

More waste of good words piled on the deaf ears of DNV Mayor and Council, for sure... (But, this one for the public record, even so). The sleepy general public will wake up some day. It is inevitable. Take care.

--Monica Craver--

I was just listening and looking at the facts and thinking:
Wow, we are really screwed here. We are not going to stop this from happening.

I will have a glass of wine now and try not to worry about it.

~Paul Kingsnorth, "Dark Mountain Project."