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 FEEDBACK

War of the Woods — A 12-point plan

Jun 02 2005

District of North Vancouver Coun. Jim Cuthbert has a list of guiding principals that he says are essential in guiding the future management of mountain biking in the District.

1. Maintain public-interest, ecosystem-based balance between recreation activities and environmental protection;
2. Sustainable mountain biking in designated areas ("parks") that respects the ecosystem so future generations can enjoy our treasured mountain lands.
3. Protection of ecology while providing recreation, social and economic benefits.
4. Minimize negative environmental impact while providing outstanding hiking, mountain biking and nature appreciation opportunities with their significant low-impact tourism and economic benefits.
5. North Shore mountains are a unique urban asset that must be preserved and sustained as a legacy for future generations.
6. Although the majority of North Shore mountain lands are publicly owned, access must be carefully managed to ensure the ecological integrity of the forested slopes.



Rob Newell

District of North Vancouver councillor Jim Cuthbert has laid out a framework to solve the current war in the woods.

7. Sustainable management will require:
 - Appropriate infrastructure to support legitimate access;
 - Suitable balance between neighbourhood livability and recreational use;
 - Refinement/implementation of "management zones" based on biophysical inventory to control location and designation of trails (e.g. multi-use (hiker and biking) vs. single use; retention vs decommissioning);
 - Strict enforcement of regulations (e.g. restricted access to areas of significant ecological value, sensitive ecosystems, etc);
 - Rigorous surveillance program as recommended to Council;
 - Shared responsibility, cooperation and integrated planning between recreationalists, the District of North Van, the District of West Van, private land owners, community groups, and other agencies including the GVRD, GVWD, WLAP, and BC Parks)..
- Land-use decisions must carefully consider the current and future mountain biking opportunities within:
- The Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve;
 - The lift-assisted mountain bike park on the north side of Black Mountain in

Cypress Provincial Park;

- The proposed Mountain Bike Park on West Van lands;
- Mount Seymour

Provincial Park;

- Inter River Park
- The Blair Range.

8. Enhance the North Shore's reputation as a quality world class destination for challenging yet sustainable mountain biking;

9. Adaptive biking management approach including Best Management Practices, rigorous monitoring and revision function;

10. Funding for the majority of recreation management costs to be provided by benefiting users including access/registration/special event, etc., fees.

11. Land use and trail use designations to be science-based reflecting mapped biophysical inventory data at a preferred scale of 1:20,000 and recent trail inventory findings.

12. District of North Vancouver to coordinate ongoing extensive volunteer program responsible for the majority of trail/trail head construction, maintenance and rehabilitation projects in conjunction with the North Shore Mountain Bike Association, other groups.

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