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First name: royal

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: [External Email]mountain biking destruction

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dear shoshone forest travel plans,

I am strongly opposed to any project that allows mountain biking in natural areas.

They can ride the roads where bikes won't destroy anything, or do like everyone else and walk through nature to fully appreciate its uniqueness and beauty. But mountain biking, a new form of wreckreation, isn't really about those positive things, it is only about the bikers' narcotic-like ego-addiction.

The truth is that mountain biking is an anti-environmental, destructive, industry supported, self-centered activity that creates destruction where it attempts to penetrate natural lands and the public trust. Unlike the misinformation from proponents of this invasion, it is clear to see this is an industry/bike association/single-minded advocate agenda to penetrate public programs, buildings, and natural areas for self-centered gain, whether it be corporate sales, association control, or self-centered thrills, all with undue pressure/influence on local officials and at the expense of unique treasures like local parks and natural venues. It is

a strategy that plays out across the nation, poisoned by the mantra of the privatized radical individual as opposed to the common good and public trust.

These spaces are meant for all of the people, not the minority of a few to pursue restricted single-use narcissist adventure. Open space parklands remain places of reflection and undisturbed connections with nature, among the diverse animal and plant life, terrain, and peace those things create. Objective national research documents the destruction that mountain biking wreaks on the environment as well as on people who want to pursue passive recreation.

Despite their false P.R. promotional distortions, mountain bikers are only interested in their constant self-indulgent thrills at the expense of nature and people. It is only about themselves and their addiction, not about others, animals, birds, plant life, the environment, nature or anything beyond their myopia. It is a pathetic mutation of what makes us truly human.

Our problems are caused mostly due to the fact that the wildlife, birds, and plant life can't speak for themselves or vote. We need to do that for them, shamelessly. It's not that hard to know what they think, since they vote with their feet: they run away whenever we get close to them! That's the first thing that every child learns about wild animals. But then we "forget" this "inconvenient truth".

You must confront this intrusion and deny any use of the park for mountain biking or similar restricted-use disruptive activity. Do you as a city want to turn every park into yet another industry-lobbied sports complex? Parks and natural environments are not gymnasiums,

race tracks, sports complexes, or circus adventure rides, despite the
propaganda from the industry and IMBA bike association partners,
replete with their websites, consulting, and talking points, a 21st
century snake-oil medicine show. Do you really want the invasion of
this destructive, dangerous, and restricted self-centered activity for
a few with its consequent documented national history of future
expansion, destruction, and danger to people (with permanent injuries
and lawsuits against the city), or do you value something more: a
place of reflection and connection with nature, others, and oneself,
giving us our full humanity, nature's gift to us all for generations
past, present, and future?
sending good vibes and bright moments!

in spirit and music,

royal hartigan, phd

blood drum spirit: truth in the moment

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youtube:

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asante nwomkro with blood drum spirit:

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blood drum spirit in accra, ghana:

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royal's youtube channel: royalhartigan (no space between names)

u.s. peace corps philippines

j. william fulbright scholar to the philippines, 2006; to ghana, west

africa, 2014-15

retired professor, music department

college of visual and performing arts

umass dartmouth

dartmouth, massachusetts

machine-free trails association

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I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the

final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is

stronger than evil triumphant.

rev. dr. martin luther king, jr.