

From: "Jill Bays" <jill@baystranslations.com>
To: <al_schlom@wellsfargois.com>, <Assemblymember.Brownley@assembly.ca.gov>, ...
Date: 4/17/2009 6:29 AM
Subject: In response to Motion # 07-3494-S1 - Mountain Bikes

In response to Motion # 07-3494-S1 - Mountain Bikes.

Rather than sign the letter that was circulated protesting against mountain bikes being allowed on park trails I would like to suggest a compromise, a solution that might help avert the unnecessary war that will otherwise inevitably develop between mountain bikers and horse riders.

Surely both have an equal right to enjoy what is left of our precious open spaces and we should be encouraging healthy, outdoor activities for everyone and not ruling out the millions of bike riders who seek the same challenges and pleasures as horse riders that our national parks offer.

As a horse rider myself I have enjoyed the trails of the Santa Monica mountains for many years and consider myself very fortunate for being able to do so. I have had many an encounter with mountain bike riders and for the most part have found them to be very courteous and considerate, stopping to dismount to let my horse pass on narrow trails, and often sharing in some way the joys of being out there.

The problem derives from the difference between the two mounts. There are dangers with both, with or without hazards on the trail, but there are many more potentially disastrous and even lethal possibilities to be aware of as soon as one climbs onto a 1000 pound animal with a mind of its own. We therefore ride our respective mounts very differently.

A mountain bike rider's focus must be directed at the ground a few feet ahead of his wheels most of the time, but especially when traveling at speed. A horse rider must be aware of everything around his horse, on the ground in front and behind, in the bushes, in the air, a hundred feet ahead up the trail, especially if it is not visible, and must try to predict how the horse will react to everything everywhere at every moment.

The senses of a horse are far more acute than ours and so the chances are the horse will be the first to hear a mountain bike coming towards him at fifteen miles an hour and he will tense and probably become fearful, and then literally anything can happen. The rider will often call out to alert the bike rider, but unfortunately the bike rider often cannot hear because of the closer noise of his tires in the dirt and rocks, especially if he is riding in a group.

My suggestion is a very cheap and simple device that the bike rider would attach to the spokes of one wheel that would cause a constant percussive sound while the bike was in motion. This would not be as noisy as an engine, but would be loud enough to carry some distance, alerting other trail users of the biker's presence. I believe this would allow the horse rider time to calm his horse and move to a safe position, or to dismount and calm his horse that way. Horse riders could also wear a dog whistle that could be used in response, alerting the oncoming bike rider. We would obviously need to train our horses not to be alarmed by the whistle, a simple enough task. Whether we are hiking or riding, we should all be aware of the potential hazards when venturing into remote areas. We are always advised in mountain lion habitat to make our presence heard to avoid surprising a lion and causing it to attack. The wheel clip would help here and also act as a warning to rattlesnakes on the trail, lessening the number of strikes to bike riders.

Instead of vying for rights over others why not let's work together so that we can all share the experience of the great outdoors because, despite the

growing threat to its very existence there is still enough to share provided we are responsible and caring - of nature, and of one another.

Yours sincerely,

Annie Waterhouse

anniescape@yahoo.com

From: "Susan" <susan0722@earthlink.net>
To: "Jill Bays" <jill@baystranslations.com>, <al_schlom@wellsfargois.com>, <...
Date: 4/17/2009 6:50 AM
Subject: Re: In response to Motion # 07-3494-S1 - Mountain Bikes

You're kidding right? No.

Equestrians have been pushed and shoved into an ever shrinking small space riddled with restrictions. Mountain bikes have more available trails and space allotted to them than equestrians do.

They can go use those, and leave ours alone.

Bikers and equestrians are not going to sit down and sing Kumbaya. You're liberal views won't work in this situation.

~Susan

----- Original Message -----

From: Jill Bays

To: al_schlom@wellsfargois.com ; Assemblymember.Brownley@assembly.ca.gov ; bsaltsman@bos.lacounty.gov ; Calsad1@aol.com ; sales1@cal-livestock.com ; info@ridingmagazine.com ; csha@psnw.com ; mail@bradsherman.com ; nancy@theequestriannews.com ; veronica@bootsandsaddlesclub.com ; jnrposse@aol.com ; dlddb@aol.com ; info@europeanequestrian.com ; Susan0722@horseplaycentral.com ; hollywooddollshorseclub@gmail.com ; IELNancyG@aol.com ; ETI@linkline.com ; stephanie@abronson.com ; wanderfarm1@aol.com ; anniescape@yahoo.com ; Erika.Pulst@lacity.org

Sent: Friday, April 17, 2009 6:29 AM

Subject: In response to Motion # 07-3494-S1 - Mountain Bikes

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Yours sincerely,

Annie Waterhouse

anniescape@yahoo.com

From: Mathew Lamb <mathew@v3a.com>
To: <Erika.Pulst@lacity.org>
Date: 4/17/2009 5:46 PM
Subject: Los Angeles City Council Motion #07-3494-S1

To: The Los Angeles City Council
RE: Los Angeles City Council Motion #07-3494-S1

Dear Sir/Madam,

It was recently brought to my attention that a number of LA Equestrians are attempting to ban mountain bikes from multi-use trails in LA City Parks. Such an attempt is

- 1) Inflammatory and histrionic - I have never observed anything other than courteous interaction between bikers and equestrians on LA City park trails
- 2) A repeated attempt by an emotionally charged minority to dictate trail use. I ride most days in LA City Parks and equestrians constitute at most 5% of the users I see out there.
- 3) Anti-environment. Deter those ride the trails as an alternative to driving.

I can see no possible reason to alter the existing situation in which all users courteously share the trail.

Thank-you for your attention in this matter,

respectfully,

Mathew Lamb

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Mathew Lamb Ph.D

310.455.3494 home
310.650.5262 cell