

From: [Colin Olson](#)
To: [Dorinda Cottle](#)
Subject: Ashland Sustainable Trails Plan
Date: Sunday, April 17, 2022 3:11:53 PM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Hi Dorinda.

I am writing to show support for mountain bike trail system in Ashland.

I have been a resident of the Rogue Valley for almost 30 of my 39 years. In that time I have seen the expansion of trails in the valley which is a positive outlet for a healthy outdoor community.

Our technical trails and unique dirt composition of decomposed granite in the Ashland watershed is some of the best in the country for year round biking. This known fact in the mountain biking community has brought people from all over the country to our valley which helps support the local businesses.

We have a great group of environmental stewards when it comes to trail building. The biking community enjoys the outdoors and wants to minimize the negative impact of the land. There are plenty of activities that have negative impacts to the land such as motorcycles and 4x4s that have the potential to tear up the land any way they see it on public access roads. This is not the case with mountain biking where extensive planning and environmental assessments are made before proceeding in an area.

If one positive thing has happened with the pandemic, it was to show everyone what the outdoors have to offer. I have experienced first hand a huge number of new people to the sport of mountain biking. There are so many healthy positive elements with the activity; whether it is staying in shape or a healthy outlet for the stress of a job or life.

Southern Oregon has amazing potential and we need to help attract more working professionals to stay in the area. We have a great set of trails but it is limited on a true spectrum from beginner to expert trails. This is where the advocacy of Rogue Valley Mountain Biking Association is a positive organization to our community.

I am a hiring supervisor for healthcare professionals at the hospital in Medford. Our valley keeps losing more and more young healthcare professionals due to the allure of Bend's outside activity culture. Bend has embraced the changing outdoor lifestyle and will continue to attract these working professionals away from the Rogue Valley. They have expanded their trail systems, created outdoor lifestyle events and continue to expand the activities where young professionals want to be a part of that community. I am concerned with the longevity of staffing our healthcare system for our community.

I feel it is the responsibility of the community leaders to find ways to recruit and retain working professionals to stay in the valley.

We are having a very difficult time recruiting healthcare professionals to our community.

I hope you can help to support the expansion of mountain biking trails which will ultimately benefit so many aspects of our community.

Thank you.
Colin Olson

From: [Tom](#)
To: [Dorinda Cottle](#)
Subject: Ashland Sustainable Trails Plan
Date: Monday, April 18, 2022 2:53:31 PM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Hi Dorinda

Just a short note recommending more mountain bike trails in the Ashland watershed. A dedicated mountain bike trail from town up to White Rabbit parking lot is really needed. Along with more mountain bike only trails.

I mountain bike about 3 times a week. Thanks Tom Peil