

## **BMA PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO THE EDITOR (DAILY CAMERA)**

March 29, 2011

Yesterday's Camera reported on an illegally built mountain bike trail on city open space. The Boulder Mountainbike Alliance (BMA) does not condone illegal trail building, breaking rules or trespassing.

It is important to remember that a few people making poor decisions is not indicative of all of those who enjoy mountain biking. Just as one hiker going through a Habitat Conservation Area without a permit or one dog guardian losing voice and sight control over their dog does not mean that all hikers or dog guardians are bad people.

Let BMA send a clear message to those who have built and used this trail illegally: Your choice directly hurts the 20-year constructive legacy of BMA. It also hurts the cause of moving the Boulder community into a future where mountain bikers are accepted as a valuable and constructive part of the open space community.

The 25-year bike ban in Boulder's West TSA and the negativity towards bikes through the WTSA process drove some mountain bikers to believe no future exists for mountain biking in Boulder. But let's put things in perspective. Over the last five years we've seen new trail access like the Dirty Bismarck, Picture Rock, Wild Turkey, Springbrook, and more. In 2011 we can look forward to the Betasso/Benjamin trail expansion and the Valmont Bike Park.

BMA also has a message to those that might want to blow this 1-mile trail out of proportion on the eve of City Council's decision regarding bikes in the West TSA. There are some 58 miles of hiker-created undesignated trails in the West TSA, including 3 1/2 miles in Habitat Conservation Areas. If illegal and social trails are an issue worthy of our attention, our energies would be better spent working together to better manage our open space lands than pointing fingers.

<https://www.dailycamera.com/2011/03/29/letters-to-the-editor-march-30/>