



*May 21, 2020*

Dear Planning Department,

Our 240-member strong Sitka Cycling Club has prioritized building single-track mountain bike trails as a top goal. Currently, we are finishing a single-track trail near Sitka High School and are excited to work and ride on other bike trails in our community. In five years, we would love to develop a strong network of trails that can attract and be used by visitors while simultaneously benefiting the growing number of local cyclists.

Multiple studies demonstrate a significant economic impact of bicycle and trail tourism. In 2017 study from Outdoor Industry Association reported that bicycling participants spent \$83 billion on trip related sales (bicycle tourism). Sitka has the potential to tap into this market while providing tremendous health and quality of life benefits to the 8,700 residents who call Sitka home.

It was very exciting to see that bike trails are being considered for the No Name Mountain and Granite Creek master plan. Our club strongly supports developing bike trails in Sitka. Thank you for considering this request and the many benefits of having bike trails in the No Name Mountain and Granite Creek area.

For more background on the club visit our website at <https://sitkacycling.wordpress.com/> or call me at 738-8734.

Sincerely,

*Doug Osborne*

*President, Sitka Cycling Club*

