



The Challenges of Mountain Bike Tourism Development in Rural and Indigenous Communities

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THE BIG IDEA

Mountain bike tourism developers have a responsibility to host communities and the environment because they use public and unceded land as their product



METHOD/METHODOLOGY

CBPR FRAMEWORK

Fosters co-learning and capacity building. A balance between knowledge generation and benefits for community partners

Focuses on problems of local relevance

Occurs through a cyclical and iterative process

Involves a long-term process and commitment to sustainability



CRITICAL QUESTIONS

1. What are the key historical power relations that require examination in order for mountain bike tourism development to adopt priorities that emphasize socio-cultural and environmental factors as well as economic gain?
2. How does mountain bike tourism constrain or enhance government and resource industry relationships with communities? What are the implications of this when establishing trails on public, unceded lands, parks, and protected areas?

CRITICAL QUESTIONS

3. To what extent does mountain bike tourism contribute to the complex layers of land use conflict?
4. What are the trail access and inventory issues in mountain bike tourism development that influence community and land managers ability to consider socio-cultural and environmental values?
5. Are community and land managers challenged by trail development?

“The catalyst for [disrupting colonial processes] is recognizing that we're not making good decisions when we're in silos. Not all interests are at the table.”

“When you talk about commercial recreation and public recreation, well, it's all public, just some people are paying for certain things and not other things. So, we get to this point where we have commercial recreation, pushing out public, I mean, we're not there yet, but we're going to get there.”

“...this is where the mountain bike community can shift from being a burden on Indigenous rights and title by just being another occupier out on the land that they have to contend with, to becoming our allies...”

“I think it becomes more and more important to get away from trail construction in general...I'm really struggling with proposing new trail development to communities...”

CONCLUSION

This research calls on mountain bike tourism developers to consider their social license and integrate fundamentals of sustainable development when using the land as a resource. This is a crucial undertaking as the majority of trails are built, managed and maintained by volunteers.

Let's go for a ride...

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