



Commissioner Nick Fish
City of Portland

February 24, 2010

Dear Committee Members,

The rogue trail recently discovered in Forest Park is an outrageous act of vandalism. Not only has the trail damaged critical wildlife habitat in one of our City's most pristine natural areas, it also threatens to damage the important work that you as a committee have been tackling for the past many months.

We know there's a demand for singletrack trails, but there's a right way and a wrong way to meet this need. This illegal act threatens to undermine the work of your committee and will only make our work more challenging as we move forward.

Your recommendations to me on this issue are now more important than ever. I am hopeful that through this process, we can create more stewards of the park – stewards who won't stand for this kind of destruction.

I want to thank John Deshler for bringing this trail to our attention and all of you for acknowledging that this kind of damage to important wildlife habitat will not be tolerated.

Our Parks team has launched a full investigation and is cooperating with local law enforcement. NW Trails Alliance has posted signs at the site and alerts on their website. We will continue to work closely with our partners to ensure a prompt and appropriate response to this illegal activity.

Thank you for the time and energy you have devoted to your committee work. I remain confident that we can develop reasonable options for singletrack. Together, our committee of diverse stakeholders can model the right way to respond to pressing demands.

Once again, thank you for your service. Please contact me at any time if you have questions or thoughts you'd like to share.

Sincerely,

Nick Fish
Parks Commissioner