I am in favor of making the Birch trail "shared-use." It's a perfect way to make a loop for all trail users without much elevation change with access from the upper Hixon parking area. It's an ideal teaching loop for beginner bikers and can be navigated with strollers and toddlers on balance bikes. I was surprised it wasn't already shared use since the only way to access it is via shared use trails. If an accurate survey of trail users was taken I'd guess it's a pretty equal number of hikers and bikers pass by the access points to the Birch trail. I guess I only see an upside to allowing all trail users access to this trail.

Thank you for reading, Derek Nordeen