

I'm writing this morning in support of opening up the Birch trail in upper Hixon to bikes.

Bikes comprise a large user base of Hixon forest and there are many trails that bikes are not allowed on in the system. The majority of lower Hixon (Miller Bluff, Oak, Hickory and Savannah) are all off limits to bikes and there are zero bike-only trails in the entire La Crosse trail system.

I don't see opening a small section of trail to bikes as a significant imposition to those opposed to this especially when they have so many trails in the system that bikes cannot ride on.

Opening Birch to bikes will allow for a flatter connector "green" trail in Hixon that will be enjoyed by novice and younger bike riders, something that currently does not exist in Lower Hixon, especially one that can be accessed from the top of the bluff.

The newest trail in our system, Miller Bluff, is hike only so I think it's fair to say that hikers and those opposed to opening Birch to bikes needs and desires are being met.

With such a large and growing user base seeking to open Birch up to bikes, especially families, I think this is the fair and right thing to do.

Thanks for your time and have a great day!

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