

MAMMOTH LAKES  
W I N T E R  
R E C R E A T I O N  
S U M M I T

# “INTRODUCING WINTER FAT BIKING”

*Presented By:*



## Sierra Eastside Mountain Biking Association

Saturday, March 19 -- 1:00PM to 2:00 PM









**SEMBA** was created to enhance, preserve, and promote responsible use of existing mountain biking trails – while creating new opportunities, access, and experiences for all mountain bikers in the Eastern Sierra.









### Founding Board Members:

- Ted Dardzinski
- Jennifer Girard
- John Wentworth
- Ingrid Braun
- Alan Jacoby





## What is a Fat Bike?





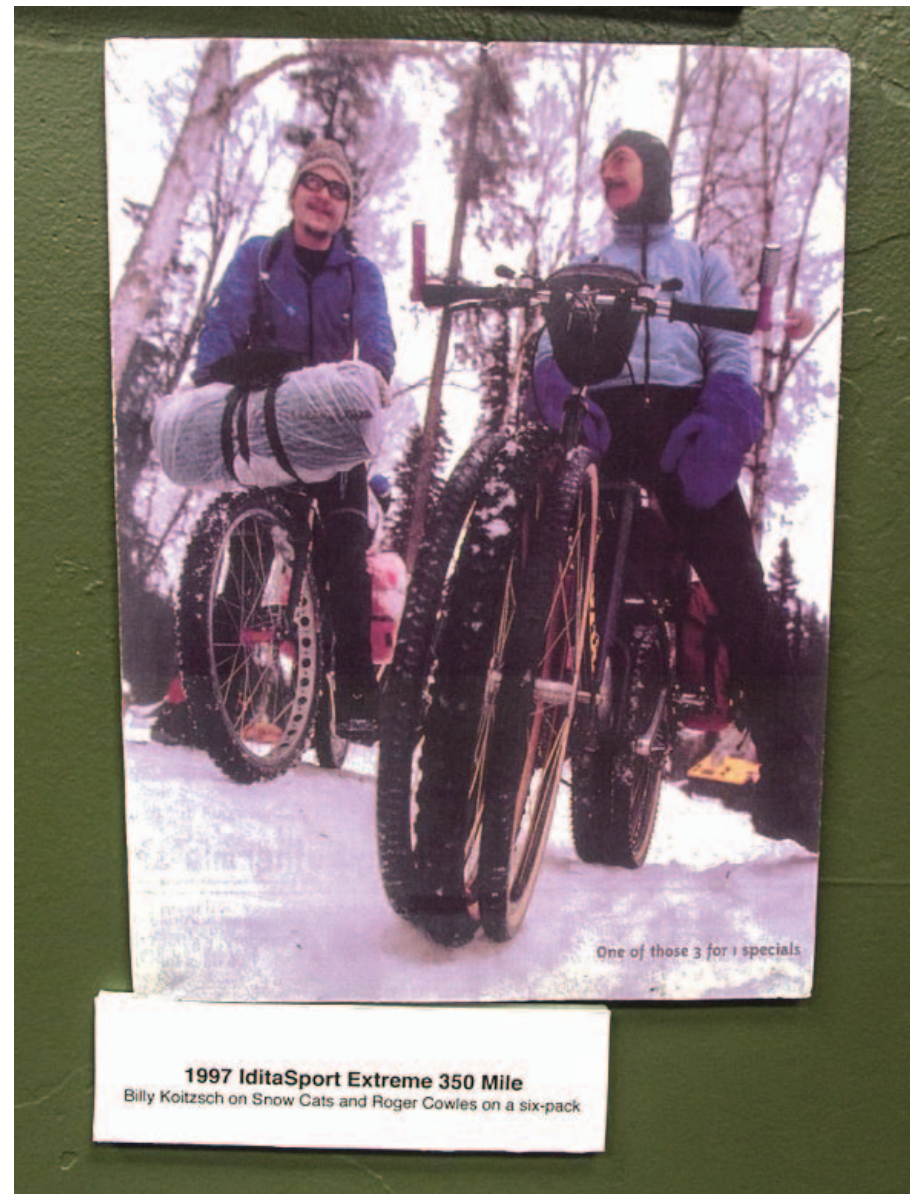


Why all the  
Buzz?









**1997 IditaSport Extreme 350 Mile**  
Billy Koitzsch on Snow Cats and Roger Cowles on a six-pack

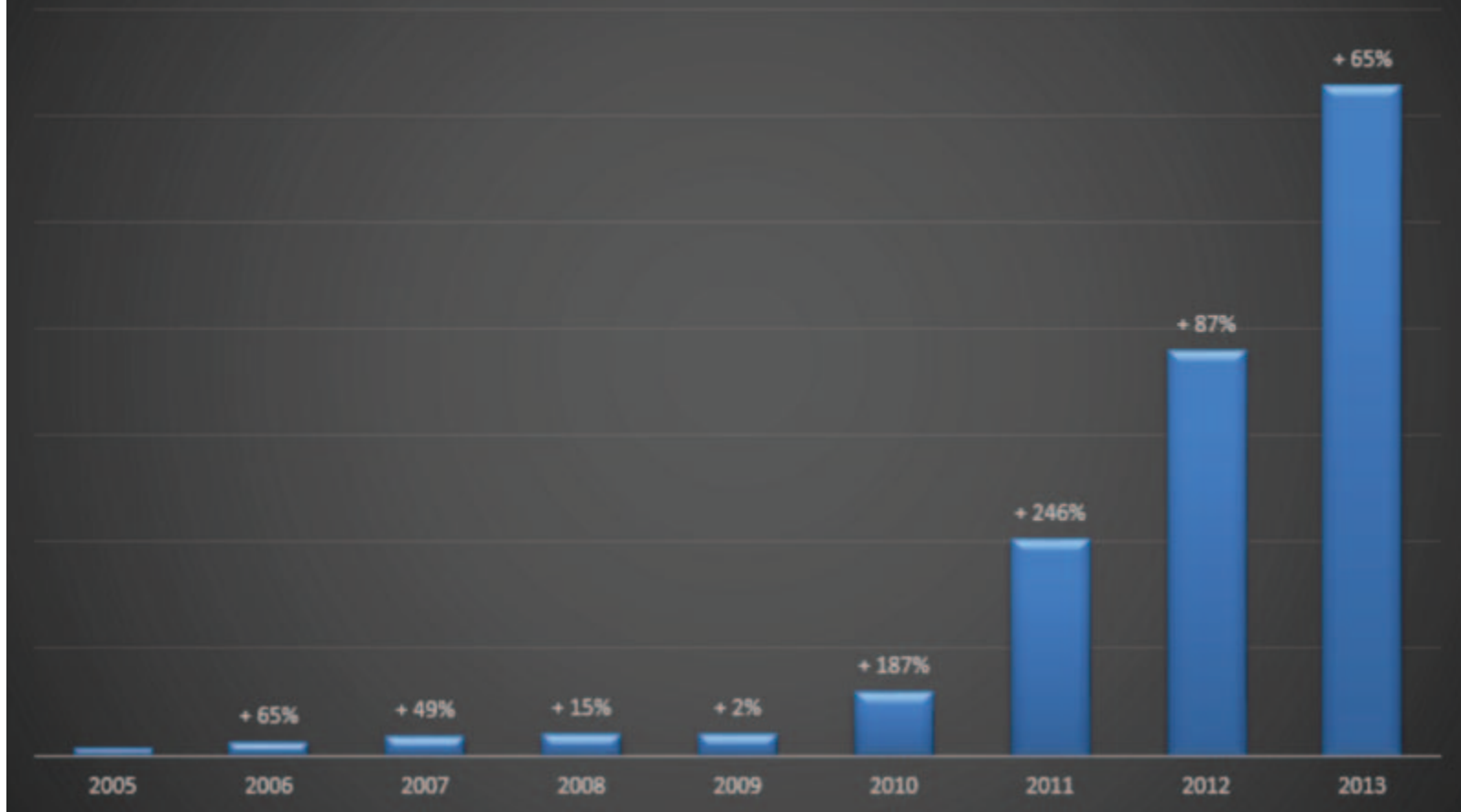


**I ain't no hollaback girl**



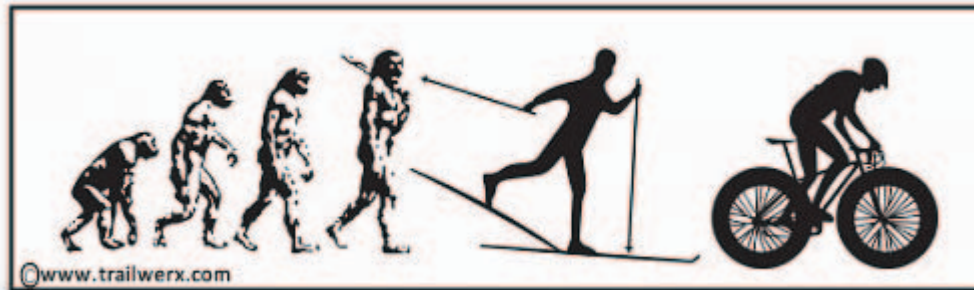


## Fat Bike Category Growth Since 2005



## Demographics and Fun Facts\*

- 80,000 bikes estimated by end of 2016
- Ages 40-65+ make up 75% of purchases
- 50% of purchasers have an income of \$100K or more
- 80% bachelor degree or higher
- 64% would pay to ride groomed trails
- ***Fastest growing segment are Nordic Skiers looking for another recreation option / cross training.***



\*stats compiled by QBP and Singletracks.com survey 2015







- Healthy, active lifestyle
- Alternative recreation
- Solitude, exercise, human-powered exploration









**Where can we ride on snow, yo ?**





GOVERNMENT OF COLORADO TRAIL SYSTEM











WASHINGTON STATE TRAIL SYSTEM







**District 33**  
**FAT BIKE**  
Grooming Sponsor











# Methow Valley Update\*

- **Skeptics have reversed themselves. Limited impact on trails by fat bikes demonstrated**
- **MVSTA has managed fat bikers in a way that there is equal or less impact to the trails surface and safety than that of skiers.**

\*Information provided by QBP for the Global Fat Bike Summit



# Grand Targhee

- **“We average over 500 inches of annual snowfall. A fat bike will leave no more of an impression in the snow than a skate skier. “ - Andy Williams: Manager, Grand Targhee Nordic Center\***

\*Quoted during Global Fat Bike Summit







JOLLY GREEN GIANTS TRAIL SYSTEM



- ColoRADO embracing the fat:
  - ✓ Purgatory
  - ✓ Winter Park Resort
  - ✓ Vail Mountain
  - ✓ Keystone Resort
  - ✓ Steamboat Ski Area
  - ✓ Aspen
  - ✓ Crested Butte (after hours, no lift access)

**Welcome to  
Crested Butte  
Mountain Resort's  
Fat Bike Loop**

**Notice: This area is not  
patrolled by C.B. Ski Patrol.  
Ride at your own risk.**





# Forest Order 04-92-11

ORDER NO. 04-92-11  
OVER-SNOW-VEHICLE USE RESTRICTIONS  
INYO NATIONAL FOREST

8p

Pursuant to Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations Subpart B Section 261.50(a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited on the Inyo National Forest on the areas, roads, and trails as described on map Exhibits A and B attached hereto and made a part of this order, entitled "Interagency Snowmobile Recreation Use Map", "North Half" and "South Half", both dated October 1992.

1. Using any wheeled vehicle on any forest development road groomed for snowmobile use. 36 CFR 261.54(a)
2. Using any wheeled vehicle on any forest development trail groomed for snowmobile use. 36 CFR 261.55(b)
3. Using any wheeled vehicle on any forest development snowmobile trail (marked with orange diamond signing) when sufficient snow is on the trail for snowmobile use between November 1 and April 30 each year. 36 CFR 261.55(b)
4. Being on a forest development road with an Over-Snow-Vehicle within the areas shown as NON-USE, LIMITED USE, or SPECIAL USE on the maps. 36 CFR 261.54(e)
5. Being on a forest development trail with an Over-Snow-Vehicle within the areas shown as NON-USE, LIMITED USE, or SPECIAL USE on the maps. 36 CFR 261.55(a)
6. Possessing or using an Over-Snow-Vehicle off road within the areas shown as NON-USE, LIMITED USE, or SPECIAL USE on the maps. 36 CFR 261.56

For the purposes of this order, an "Over-Snow-Vehicle" is defined as any motorized vehicle which is being used to travel over a snow- or ice- covered surface. A "wheeled vehicle" is any device by which a person or property may be propelled or carried on wheels (including bicycles).





# Perceived Conflict

- ***Experience - Based Conflict:*** Ruin the vibe
- ***Safety - Based Conflict:*** Posing danger to users

# Perceived Trail Impact

- Ruts, deep impressions, etc.



**Responsible  
and  
Appropriate  
Shared Use**



# Responsible and Appropriate Shared Use



## FAT BIKE Guidelines on the Hahns Peak/ Bears Ears District – Routt National Forest

### Basic guidelines

- Use only purpose-built Fat Bikes with enough floatation and traction allowing you to travel over snow safely without leaving ruts that may affect other users. Use wide tires – 3.5 inches or wider, tire pressure < 10 PSI
- Do not ride in soft conditions. Hard packed conditions on trails with 2” new snow is ok, more than 2” (you can’t climb or descend very well). In a snow cycle 12” or more with freshly groomed trails can be too soft. If you leave a rut greater than 2 inches, it’s too soft
- Let track set-up on mornings in which the track is groomed (10:00 am?). Leave the soft for the skiers.
- Other users may not be familiar with Fat Bikes and potential for collisions exist, especially in areas with snowmobile use. Be prepared and recreate at your own risk.

### Best Practices for Fat Biking on Nordic Trails

- DO NOT ride in the [cross country ski tracks](#), ride in the snowshoe tracks
- Yield to all other users when riding. Skiers don’t have brakes but you do!
- Bruce’s Trail - Allow time to set up after grooming and before riding, ride on the firmest part of the tracks
- Bruce’s Trail is groomed by the Steamboat Nordic Council in early season - help out and get involved by joining or consider donating money for trail grooming.
- Leave room for skiers to pass (don’t ride side-by-side).
- Be an ambassador for the sport: stay polite, educate other riders, discourage bad behavior and follow the rules.

### Best Practices for Riding on Snowmobile Trails

- When riding on snowmobile trails, use a front white blinker and rear red blinker at all times. Wear reflective material on both the front and rear of your body.
- Be aware of trail grooming operations – yield to snowcats and groomers
- Stay to the far right of the trail and yield to snowmobiles. Oncoming snowmobiles may be travelling at fast speeds – BE ALERT.
- Use extreme caution when riding at night. Be visible, wear reflective clothing and use bright lights
- Be friendly! Fat bikers are the newest trail users. **Trails are groomed with funds collected from snowmobilers. Be courteous and open to suggestions from snowmobile riders if you want their support.**
- Support your local snowmobile club and consider donating to trail grooming and maintenance efforts.

### CONSIDERATIONS in SPECIAL AREAS

- **NO biking** on the following trails and areas closed for protection of deer and elk winter range habitat:
  - **Steamboat Area** - Spring Creek Closure Area, Red Dirt, Mad Creek, Hot Springs and Lower Bear trails.
  - **Clark** – Forest Road 440 – Greenville Mine road, North side of Seedhouse Road area -Coulton Creek, and other areas posted with signs.
- **Buffalo Pass Winter Recreation Area** – Heavy snowmobile and snowcat use occurs. Use extra caution when riding on the groomed trails. Pay extra attention to the Snowmobile Trail Best Practices listed above.
- **Steamboat Ski Area** – Fat Bikes are allowed outside of normal operating hours and you must follow the Steamboat Ski and Resort’s Uphill Access Policy and User Guidelines posted on their web page, and use only those routes identified by the resort.

As the use of Fat Bikes becomes more popular, potential for conflict with other traditional winter users increases. Please enjoy your riding and work to fit in with the other forest users. Misuse of this privilege can result in new rules and restrictions, and when compromising everyone loses something.

Questions – call the Forest Service at 970-870-2299

# Responsible and Appropriate Shared Use

## WINTER SKI TRAIL FAT BIKE *Etiquette*

FAT BIKERS ARE THE NEW USERS ON THE TRAILS AND SHOULD BE EXTRA POLITE AND COURTEOUS.  
HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND WHEN RIDING FAT:

### FAT BIKES



**Do NOT Ride On The Groomed Trail If:**

- You are leaving a tire rut deeper than one inch
- You are having a hard time riding in a straight line
- Your bikes tires are narrower than 3.7"
- Your bikes tire pressure is greater than 10 psi

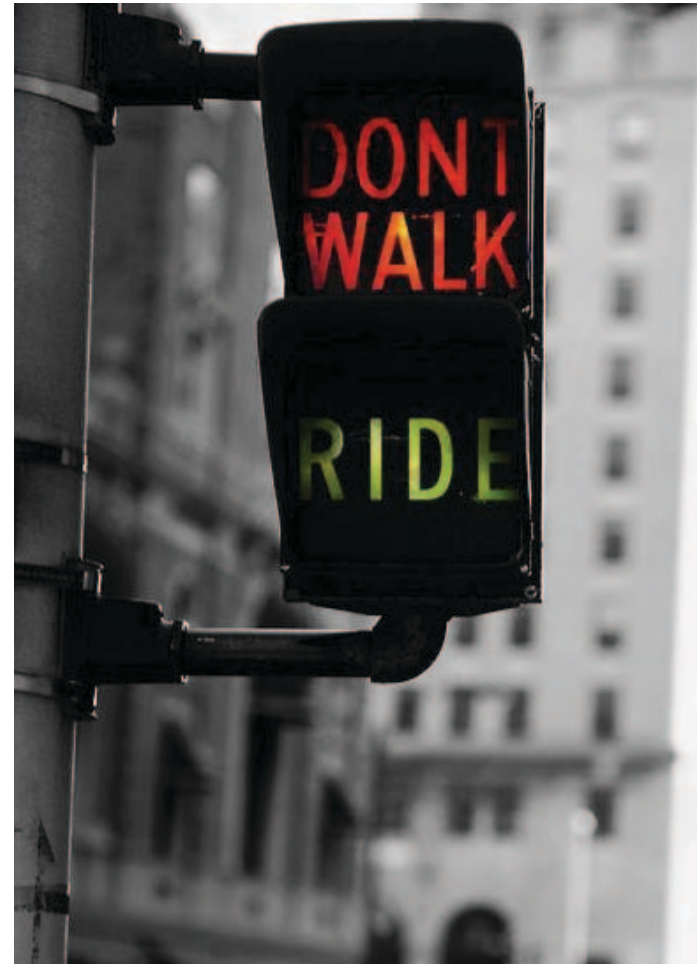
**General Fat Biker Nordic Trail Etiquette:**

- Bikes yield to all other users. Skiers don't have brakes, you do!
- Fat bike lane – Ride on the most firm part of the track
- Leave room for skiers to pass
- Do NOT ride in the classic ski tracks
- Stay to the right side of the trail around corners and look for oncoming traffic
- Allow the track time to set-up after grooming and before riding
- Don't ride any old mountain bike out there – Purpose built Fat bikes only!
- Contact TVTAP regarding how you can support the grooming of this trail
- Spread the word about Fat biking, make it fun, keep it safe.
- Be an ambassador for the sport – stay polite, educate other bikers, discourage bad behavior, follow the rules, and we'll all have a good time this winter.

TOO SOFT	IS THE SKI TRAIL TOO SOFT?	GOOD TO GO
	<p>Alternative trail options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Darby Canyon</li><li>Driggs/Victor Pathway</li><li>Rails-To-Trails Pathway</li><li>Stateline Road</li></ul> 	

# Pushing Forward

- Continue partnership with Sierra Star
- Exploring partnerships with TOML for grooming of the MUPS
- Exploring partnerships with Snowcreek Property Company
- Tamarack opening a pilot program
- MMSA follow lead of Colorado



## Most Importantly...

- Fat bikes gain access to the public winter trail systems

## Next Step?

- Deliver a proposal to Ed Armenta: Forest Supervisor of the Inyo National Forest
- Recommend amending Forest Order 04-92-11 to include responsible and appropriate fat bike access to roads and trails groomed for snowmobiles and nordic skiers.



INYO NATIONAL FOREST TRAIL SYSTEM



**“Nothing compares to the simple pleasure of riding a bike.” - John F. Kennedy**