

Nation's First MTB License Plate Supports Trails



On March 29, Idaho Governor Butch Otter signed a bill permitting the nation's first specialty vehicle license plate that recognizes and celebrates mountain biking—the result of Idaho mountain biker volunteers and the bipartisan work of legislative sponsors Rep. Brian Cronin (D) of Boise and Sen. Chuck Winder (R) of Eagle.

When I joined the board of the Southwest Idaho Mountain Biking Association, I learned quickly that trails aren't free. I wanted to come up with a new way to fund statewide trail work, as well as promote Idaho's great mountain biking trails. Why not a specialty vehicle license plate?

To purchase and renew this plate, motorists will pay an extra fee over and above the usual vehicle registration fees. A portion of that extra fee goes to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, who must, by law, only use it for improvements, maintenance and creation of mountain biking and multi-use recreational trails in Idaho. Actual trail work will be coordinated with mountain bikers and other trail users and clubs statewide.

The conceptual plate design shown (the final design is still under development) was the result of a collaborative effort between Boise mountain bikers Bret Moss, Todd Meier and Brett Magnuson.

One key part of the bill is that mountain bikers, working through a non-profit association, have agreed to fund the programming of the plate by the Idaho Transportation Department and to promote plate sales in the future. Mountain bikers, clubs and businesses are encouraged to donate. As of the end of March, over \$3,500 had been contributed so far.

The plate will be available for purchase in 2011. You can learn more on my blog here: IDMTBTrailAssoc.blogspot.com, as well as on Facebook. —Geoff Baker

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