

**ABSTRACT**

This study will examine the socio-cultural and environmental impacts of mountain bike tourism on rural and First Nation communities. The key objective of this study is to examine how industries, such as mountain bike tourism and resource extraction, interact with land-use policy and reinforce or disrupt colonial patterns of land use management to determine what practices are tolerable on public and private lands.

This study will use qualitative indepth interviews with key rural and First Nations stakeholders. This will include; government agencies; land managers; notforprofit trail managers and tourism marketing organizations. Findings from this research will assist rural communities, regional First Nations, policymakers and tourism planners with the creation and development of a more sustainable tourism management strategy that is better prepared to consider the history of land use management decisions and can adapt to the dynamic sociopolitical and environmental conditions currently impacting the province.

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