

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING *Between*
the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA) And
the Georgia Department of Natural Resources

I. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into by and between the Georgia Department of Natural Resources State Parks and Historic Sites (GSPHS) and the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA), which is a full partner of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), in order to support shared objectives of improving and increasing nature-based recreational opportunities in Georgia related to mountain biking and supporting the operation of the State Parks and Historic Sites system.

II. Statement of Mutual Benefit and Interests

GSPHS manages lands for a variety of uses and activities, including outdoor recreation. GSPHS is interested in providing a variety of mountain bicycling opportunities that are environmentally sensitive financially sustainable, educational, supportive of local and regional economies, and aligned with goals of enhancing quality of life in communities and the public at large.

SORBA engages in advocacy, education, and works to provide recreational opportunities that carry out its mission to promote land access, trail preservation, and new trail development for the mountain biking community. SORBA is widely recognized as an authority on the design, construction and maintenance of sustainable mountain bicycle trails.

SORBA and GSPHS will benefit from this MOU's definition of the partner and volunteer aspects of this relationship. Both organizations are constrained by finite resources. Both organizations recognize far greater good can be achieved by combining and focusing their efforts toward the accomplishment and maintenance of mutually beneficial programs and projects.

III. Articles of Agreement

Whereas GSPHS manages State Parks and Historic Sites that have priceless and irreplaceable natural, cultural, and recreational resources which are protected for the benefit, inspiration and use of the public

Whereas GSPHS has its mission to protect our State's natural beauty and historic integrity while providing opportunities for public enjoyment and education

Whereas GSPHS recognizes that outdoor recreation provides jobs, promotes economic development and tourism, and positively impacts all Georgia communities; and

Whereas Georgia is one of the first southern states to recognize the role and importance of mountain bicycling as a channel for nature trails-based tourism; and

Whereas mountain bicycling is shown to be a healthy and popular recreational choice for the citizens of Georgia and is consistent with GSPHS's mission; and

Whereas SORBA leads the effort to promote mountain biking through a network of 1,800 members and 12 Chapters in Georgia, and is recognized nationally as one of the leaders in teaching, developing, and propagating sustainable trail design and construction for mountain bicycling-specific and shared-use trails, and encourages responsible riding, volunteer trail work and cooperation among all users groups and land managers; and

Whereas SORBA and GSPHS are concerned about the health and physical fitness of the general public, and encourage programs to increase interest and participation in health and fitness activities, including outdoor recreation.

NOW THEREFORE, GSPHS and SORBA agree to partner in the planning, management and development of trail opportunities for mountain bicycling on Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites.

IV. Statement of Work

In accordance with existing laws, regulations and policy, and subject to the availability of funds, both parties mutually agree to:

1. Work closely to establish and accomplish common goals and objectives;
2. Provide expertise on the design, construction, and maintenance of sustainable mountain biking trail projects;
3. Evaluate existing mountain bicycling opportunities and, in collaboration with the GSPHS, work to apply treatments such as rehabilitation and relocation to improve safety, and user experience;
4. In partnership with the GSPHS, create and post appropriate signage for mountain biking trails;
5. Meet at least annually to discuss mountain bicycling opportunities on GSPHS sites;
6. Encourage collaboration between GSPHS land managers and SORBA Chapters to create, maintain and manage mountain bicycling opportunities;
7. Work together to educate volunteer trail workers on the proper construction and maintenance of trails and enter into scope of work agreements with SORBA Chapters;

8. Assist GSPHS in identifying mountain bike trail opportunities and work with professional trail builders on trail design and construction;
9. Disseminate to SORBA members a schedule of activities, such as volunteer training and education, work parties, planned trail construction or maintenance, public meetings and comment periods, and any other GSPHS activities of which SORBA members should be aware;
10. Assist GSPHS in engaging SORBA chapter volunteers in future projects to further develop mutual goals;
11. Work to promote and support mountain bicycling related tourism in Georgia;
12. Acknowledge and support mountain bicycling as a family activity with health benefits;
13. Promote the guidelines for sustainable trail construction and management contained in IMBA publications *Trail Solutions*, *Managing Mountain Biking*, *Bike Parks*, and *Guidelines for a Quality Trail Experience* when developing sustainable shared-use or mountain bicycling-specific trails and management plans;
14. Work to seek out additional sources of funding for projects to create green, safe and sustainable mountain biking experiences.

V. TERM

This MOU shall become effective on GSPHS's signature and shall remain active for five (5) years, at which time the MOU may be renewed upon agreement of both parties.

VI. TERMINATION

This MOU may be terminated without cause by either party with written notice given at least thirty (30) days of the intended termination date.

VII. SIGNATURE WARRANTY

The undersigned represent and warrant that they are authorized to bind their principals to the terms of this MOU.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties herein below set their hand.

Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association in
Partnership with IMBA

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
State Parks and Historic Sites

By:  Date: Jun 3, 2022


By:  Date: 6/10/2022

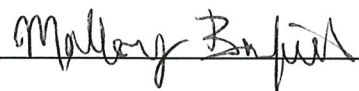
Terry Palmeri
SORBA Executive Director
IMBA Regional Director

Jeff Cown, Director
Parks & Historic Sites Division

Witness:

Witness:

 Date: Jun 6, 2022

 Date: 6/10/22









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Final Audit Report

2022-06-06

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